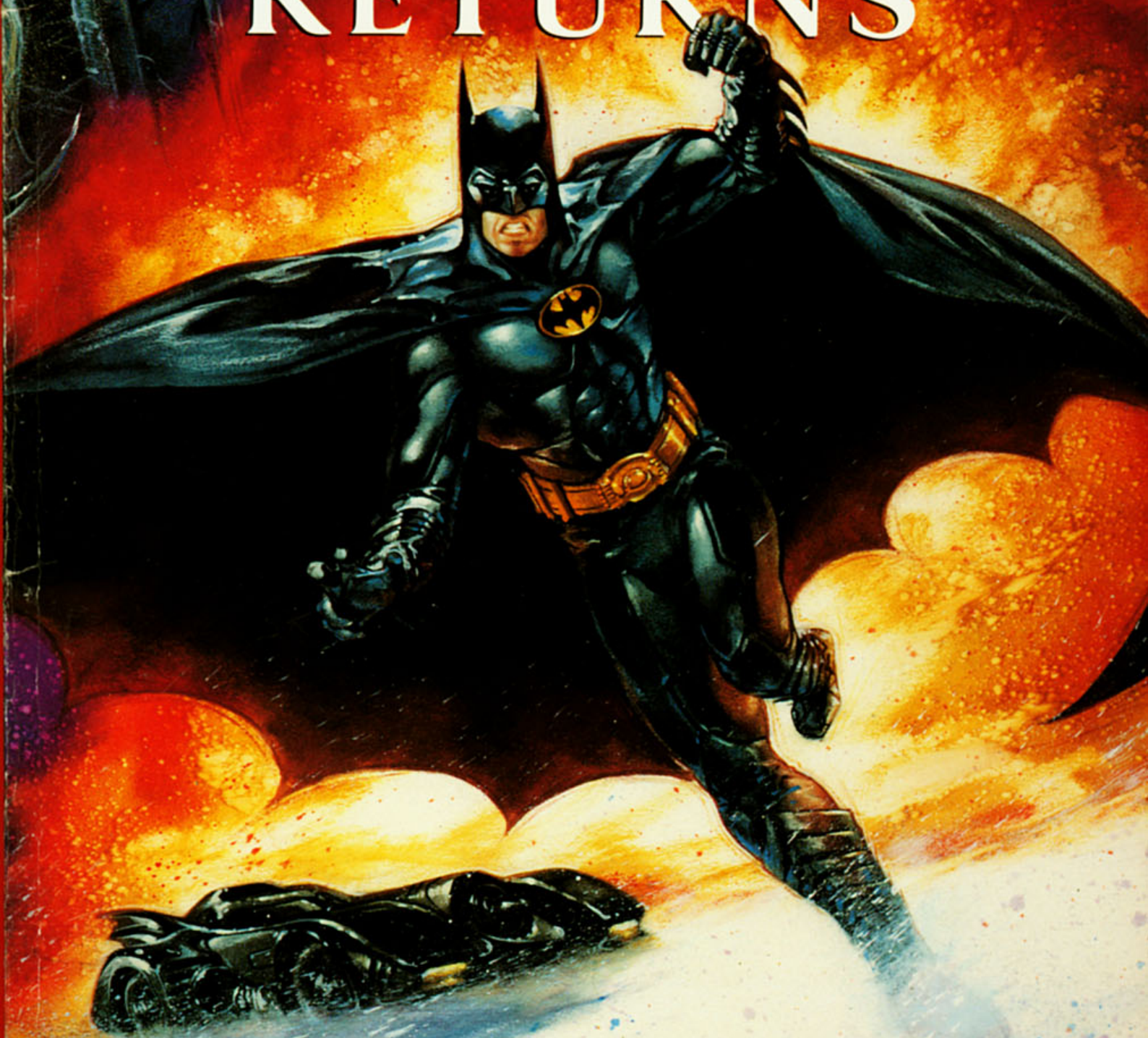




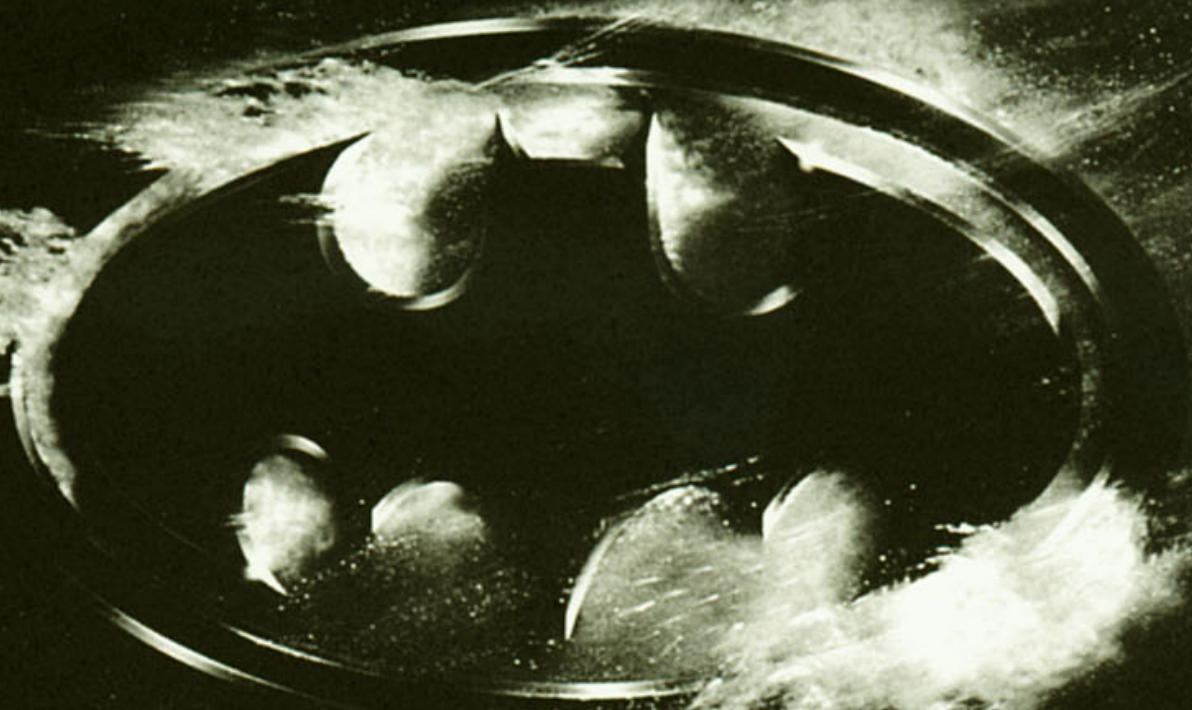
**THE OFFICIAL COMIC
ADAPTATION OF THE
WARNER BROS. MOTION PICTURE**

BATMAN RETURNS



DORMAN

**DENNIS O'NEIL
STEVE ERWIN
JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ
WITH TOM McCRAW**



TM

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS

A TIM BURTON FILM MICHAEL KEATON

DANNY DEVITO MICHELLE PFEIFFER "BATMAN RETURNS" AND CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
MICHAEL GOUGH PAT HINGLE MICHAEL MURPHY MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN CO-PRODUCER LARRY FRANCOEXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JON PETERS, PETER GUBER, BENJAMIN MELNIKER, MICHAEL USLAN
BASED UPON BATMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY BOB KANE AND PUBLISHED BY DC COMICS STORY BY DANIEL WATERS AND SAM HAMM
SCREENPLAY BY DANIEL WATERS PRODUCED BY DENISE DI NOVI TIM BURTON DIRECTED BY TIM BURTON

TM & © 1992 DC COMICS INC.

(READ THE WARNER PAPERBACK)

SOUNDTRACK ALBUM ON WARNER BROS. CASSETTES AND CD

WARNER BROS.
A TIME WARNER COMPANY**THE COMIC ADAPTATION**

WRITER DENNIS O'NEIL PENCILLER STEVE ERWIN

INKER JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ COLORIST TOM McCRAW

LETTERER JOHN COSTANZA COVER PAINTING BY DAVE DORMAN

ASSISTANT EDITOR SCOTT PETERSON EDITOR JONATHAN PETERSON

BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE

BATMAN RETURNS: THE OFFICIAL COMIC ADAPTATION OF THE WARNER BROS. MOTION PICTURE

Published by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc., All Rights Reserved.

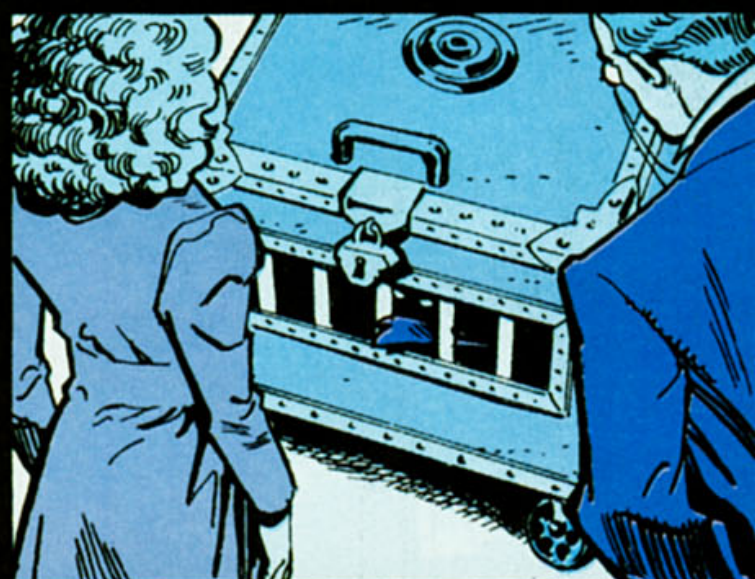
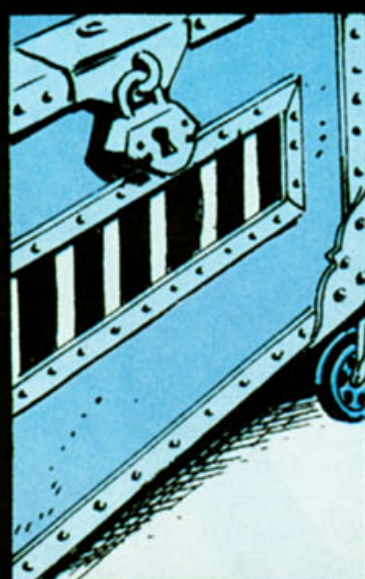
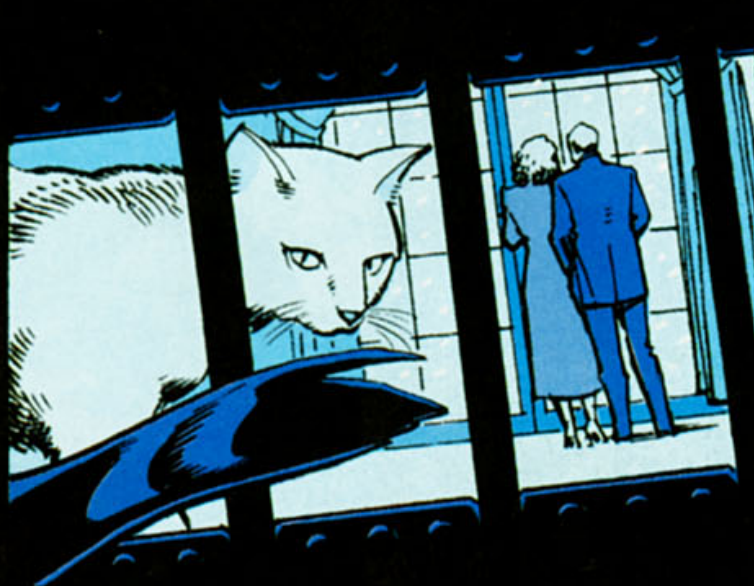
Batman, Catwoman, the Penguin, and all other related characters, props,

slogans and indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc.

A division of Warner Bros. Inc., a Time Warner Company.

Printed in Canada. First Printing.

GOTHAM CITY,
THE PAST...





GOTHAM CITY.
THE PRESENT.

...WELL, HERE'S
HOPING GOTHAM
MIGHT HAVE ITS FIRST
MERRY CHRISTMAS
IN A LONG WHILE.

I FEEL ALMOST
VULGAR, IN THIS
YULETIDE CONTEXT,
ABOUT MENTIONING
MY NEW POWER
PLANT, MR. MAYOR.

BUT IF WE'RE GOING
TO BREAK GROUND, I'LL
NEED PERMITS, TAX
INCENTIVES...

POWER
PLANT?

MAX, GOTHAM
HAS ENOUGH ENERGY
SOURCES TO SUSTAIN
GROWTH INTO THE
NEXT CEN--

YOUR ANALYSTS AREN'T TALKING GROWTH. THEY'RE
TALKING MILD SWELLING. I'M PLANNING AHEAD
SO WE CAN LIGHT A WHOLE PLAZA WITHOUT
BROWNOUTS.

IMAGINE GOTHAM
CITY OF THE FUTURE
LIT UP LIKE A
BLANKET OF STARS...

BUT BLINKING ON
AND OFF, EMBARRASS-
INGLY LOW ON JUICE.

FRANKLY I CRINGE,
MR. MAYOR.

SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SUBMIT
THE BLUEPRINTS AND PLANS TO THE
USUAL COMMITTEES...

DAD, MR. MAYOR--
IT'S TIME TO GO
AND BRING JOY
TO THE MASSES.

UM, I HAD A
SUGGESTION--

THANK
YOU, CHIP.

I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T
PROPERLY HOUSEBROKEN MS.
KYLE YET. THOUGH SHE DOES
BREW SENSATIONAL COFFEE.

THANKS. ANYWAY, IT'S NOT
THE CAFFEINE THAT GETS
US BUZZED--

IT'S THE
OBEDIENCE.

SHUT UP,
CHIP.

YOU STUPID
CORN DOG.



THINK ABOUT IT. I HAVE ENOUGH SIGNATURES FROM SHRECK EMPLOYEES ALONE TO WARRANT YOUR RECALL.

THAT'S NOT A THREAT. JUST SIMPLE MATH.

MAYBE. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE AN ISSUE, MAX. NOR DO YOU HAVE A CANDIDATE.

WATCH YOUR STEP, DAD--IT'S PRETTY GROTESQUE...



OH, HEY! THE MAN WHO'S GIVEN THIS CITY SO MUCH IS HERE, TO KEEP GIVING. WELCOME GOTHAM'S OWN SANTA CLAUS, MAX SHRECK.



DAD--?

FORGOT. MY. SPEECH.

REMIND ME TO TAKE IT OUT ON SELINA.



"SANTA CLAUS"? FRAID NOT.

I'M JUST A POOR SCHMOE WHO GOT A LITTLE LUCKY, AND SUE ME IF I WANT TO GIVE A LITTLE BACK.

I ONLY WISH I COULD HAND OUT MORE THAN JUST EXPENSIVE BAUBLES. IN THIS SEASON--



--I WISH I COULD HAND OUT WORLD PEACE--



--AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE--

--WRAPPED UP IN A BIG BOW...



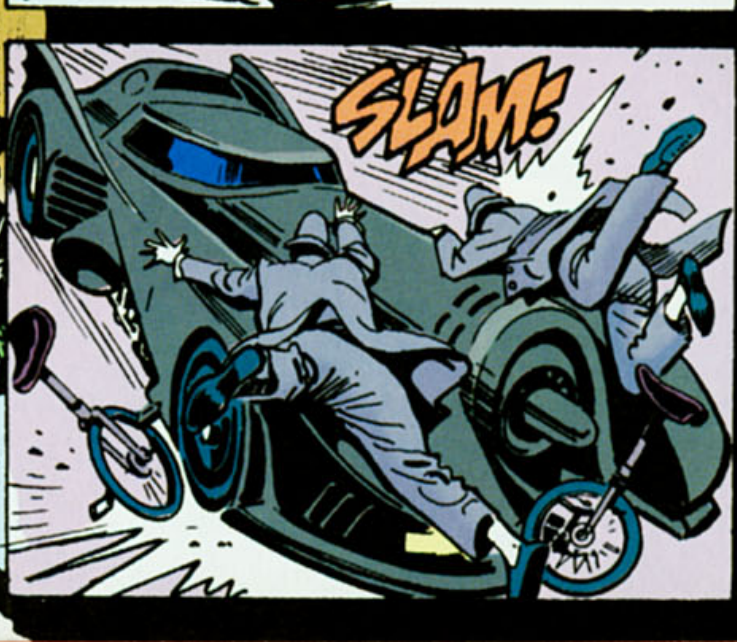
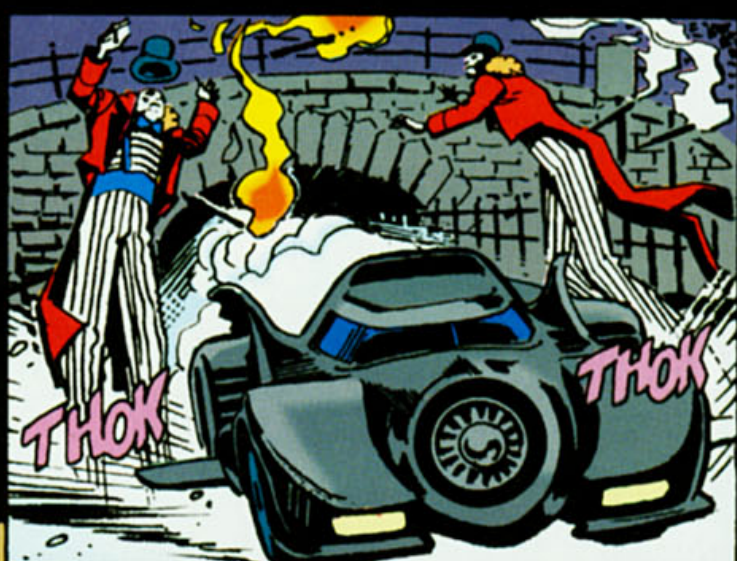
GREAT IDEA.

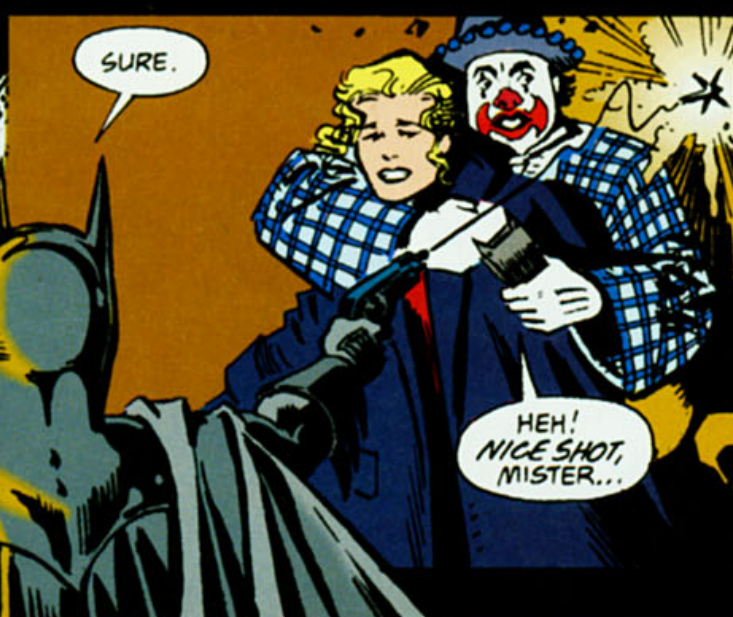
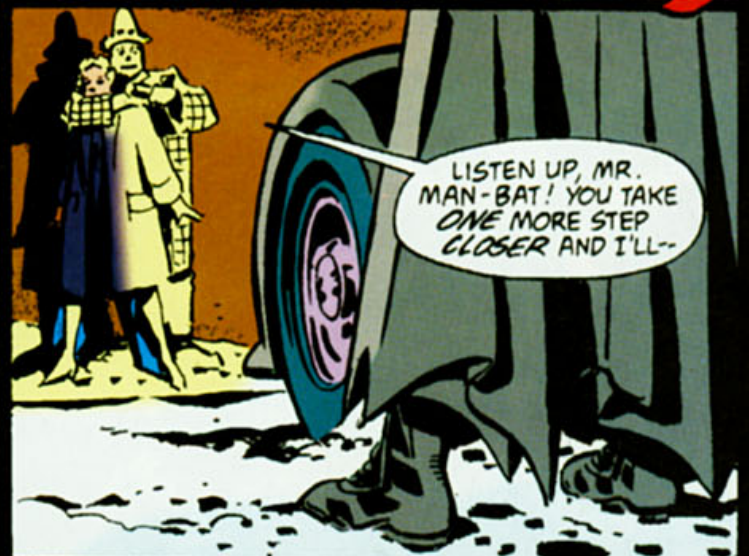
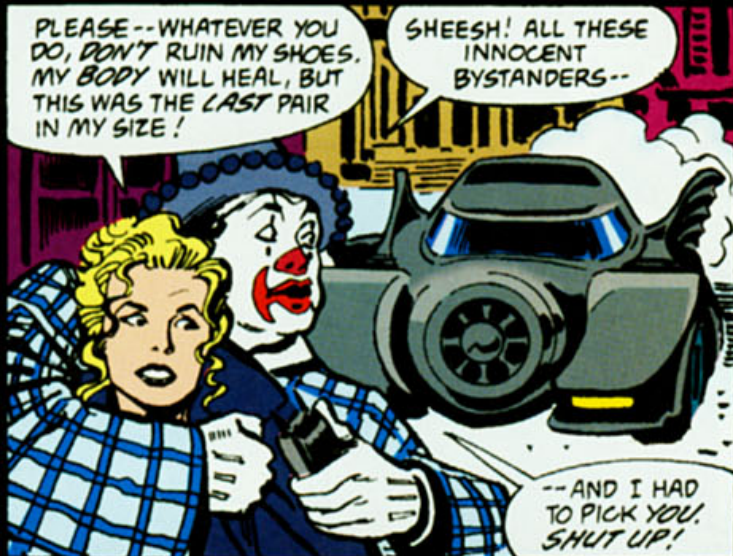
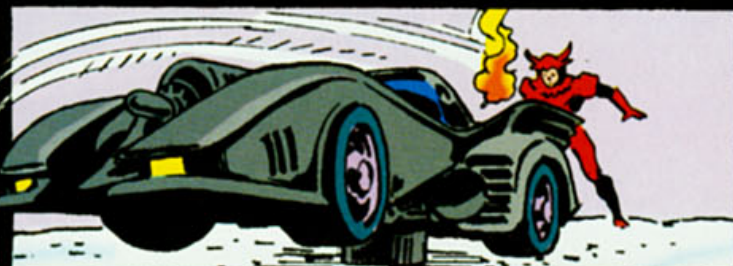
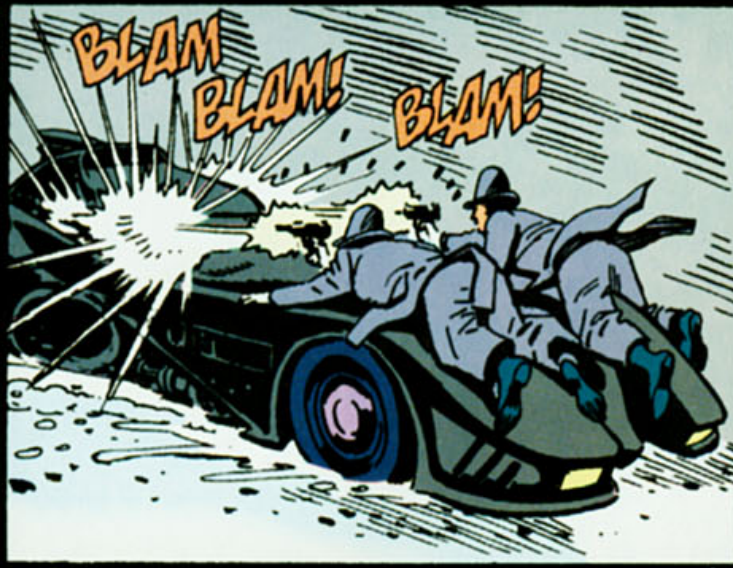
BUT NOT MINE...



DECK THE HALLS.









SELINA, ABOUT THAT CHRISTMAS GETAWAY WE PLANNED? I'LL BE GOING ALONE. DR. SHAW SAYS I NEED TO BE MY OWN PERSON NOW AND NOT AN APPENDAGE.

THE PARTY NEVER STOPS ON SELINA KYLE'S ANSWERING MACHINE.

GUESS I SHOULD'VE LET HIM WIN THAT RACQUETBALL GAME.

SELINA, THIS IS YOURSELF CALLING TO REMIND YOU TO BRING HOME THE BRUCE WAYNE FILE, BECAUSE THE MEETING'S WEDNESDAY--

-- AND MAX SLAVEMASTER WANTS EVERY PERTINENT FACT AT YOUR LOVELY TAPERED FINGERTIPS.

THE FILE!

YOU STUPID CORN DOG. CORN DOG!

THE OLD GOTHAM ZOO, DEEP WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE DECREPIT ARCTIC WORLD PAVILION--

-- WHERE A CAPTURED MAX SHRECK STRUGGLES TO FIND THE VOICE TO SCREAM...

--RESTING COMFORTABLY AND DYING FROM THE CARCINOGENS YOU'VE PERSONALLY SPEWED IN A LIFETIME OF PROFITEERING. TRAGIC IRONY OR POETIC JUSTICE?

YOU TELL ME.

MY GOD, IT'S TRUE! THE PENGUIN-MAN OF THE SEWERS! DON'T KI-

I BELIEVE THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS A-A-A-A-GH!

ACTUALLY, THIS IS ALL JUST A BAD DREAM. YOU'RE HOME IN BED--

QUIET, MAX. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS --A CONVERSATION?

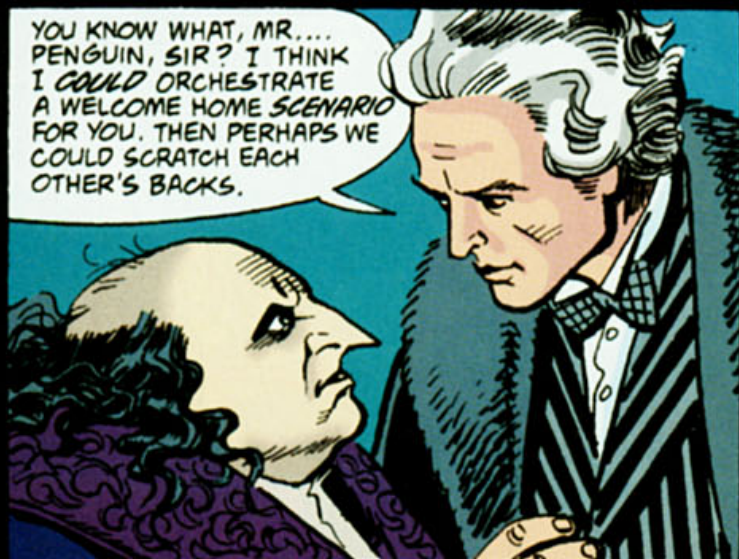
I'VE BEEN LINGERING DOWN HERE TOO LONG. IT'S HIGH TIME FOR ME TO ASCEND. WITH YOUR KNOW-HOW, YOUR SAVVY, YOUR ACUMEN--

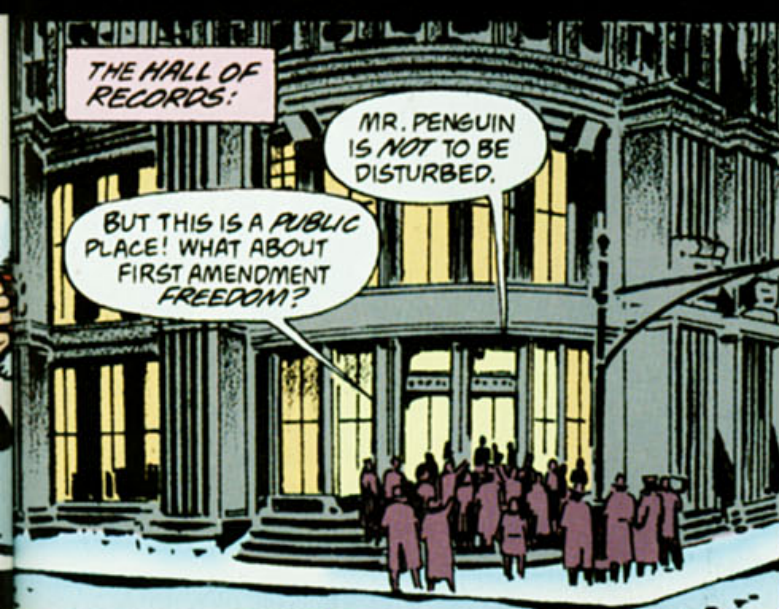
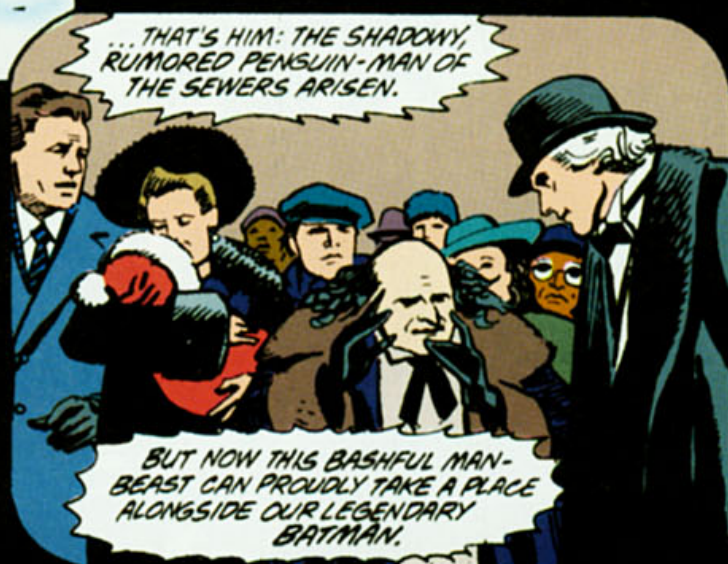
AND EXACTLY WHY AM I GONNA HELP YOU?

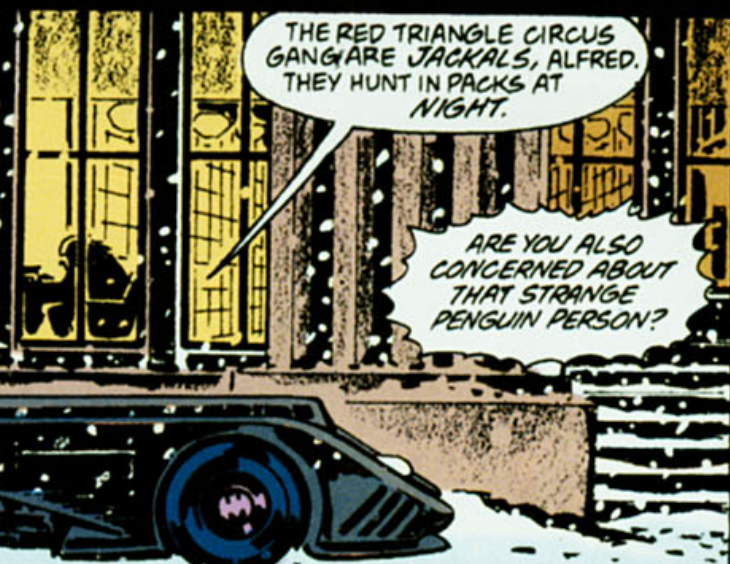
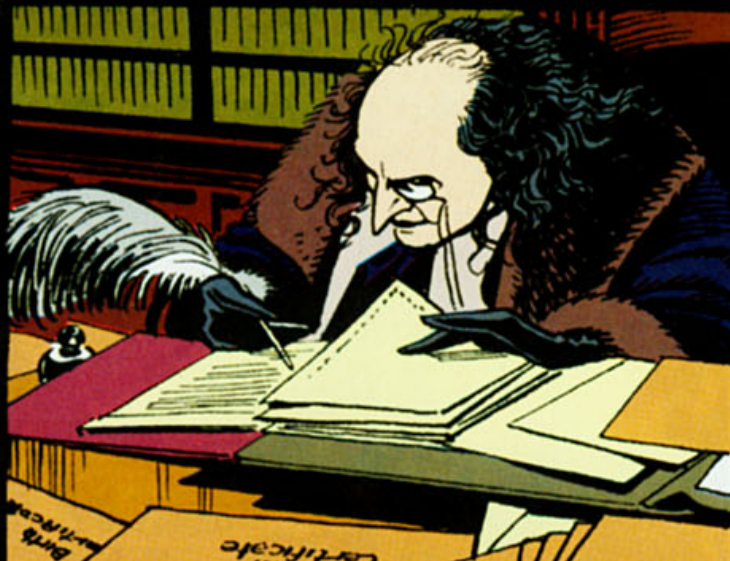
WHAT ABOUT DOCUMENTS THAT PROVE YOU OWN HALF THE FIRETRAPS IN GOTHAM?

IF THEY EXISTED I WOULD HAVE SEEN TO IT THEY WERE SHREDDED.

A LOT OF TAPE AND A LITTLE PATIENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.









I'M TOUCHED.

NO, I AM.

I'M BONING UP FOR YOUR BRUCE WAYNE MEETING. IT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING, THOUGH A BIT ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE.

I MEAN, HOW THE POWER PLANT IS A POWER PLANT IN NAME ONLY--

--SINCE IT'S GONNA BE ONE GIANT CAPACITOR.

WORKING LATE?

INSTEAD OF GENERATING POWER IT'LL BE SUCKING POWER FROM GOTHAM AND STORING IT.

HOW INDUSTRIOUS. YOU OPENED PROTECTED FILES.

AND WHO... WOULD YOU SAY THIS TO?

WELL... UM... NOBODY--?

WHAT DID CURIOSITY DO TO THE CAT?

I'M NO CAT. I'M JUST AN ASSISTANT. A SECRETARY--

AND A VERY, VERY GOOD ONE.

TOO GOOD?

GO AHEAD. BULLY ME IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BIG. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN KILL ME--

ACTUALLY, IT'S A LOT LIKE THAT.

FOR A SECOND, YOU REALLY FRIGHTENED--

CRASHH

WHAK

RRRRPP

FWUMP!



HELP ME...
SOMEONE...
MISS KITTY...



CHIP?!?

I...IT WAS
TERRIBLE!
I LEANED
OVER--

--AND ACCIDENTALLY
KNOCKED HER OUT...



SHE
JUMPED.

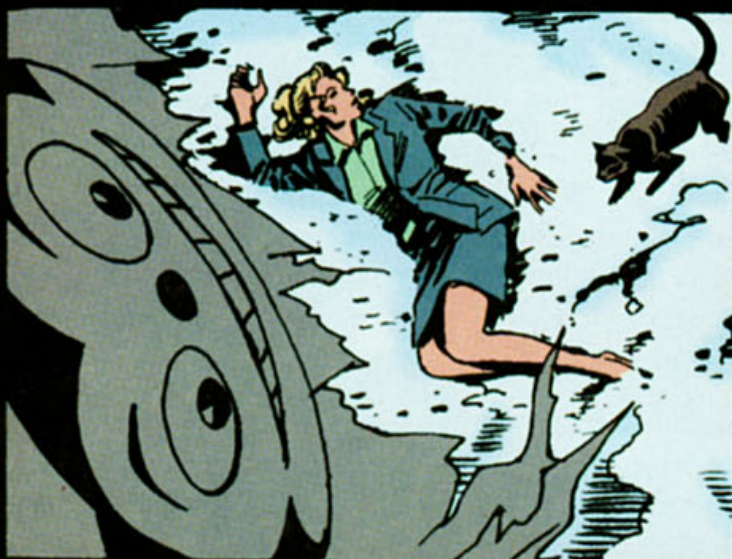


SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED.

YES.
YES!

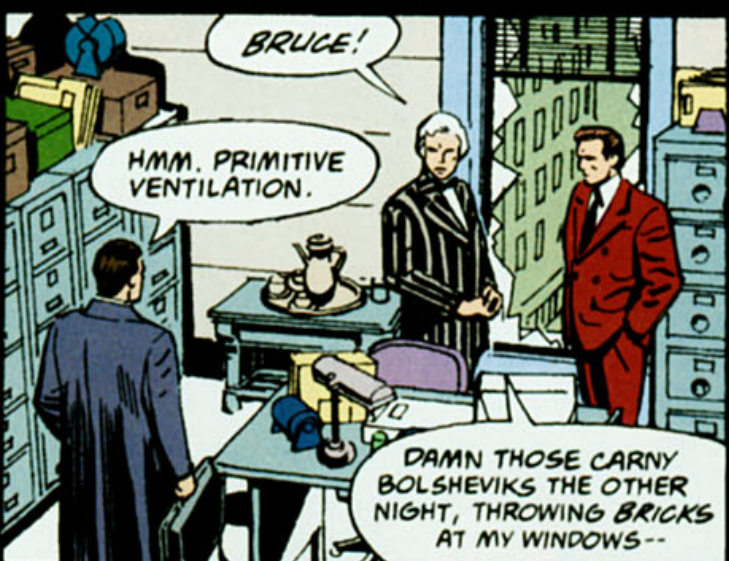
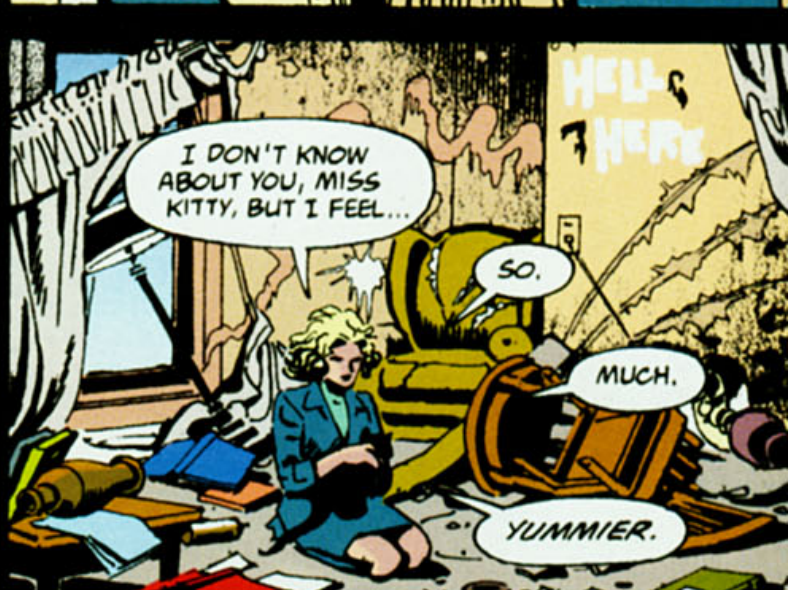
BOYFRIEND
TROUBLE--?

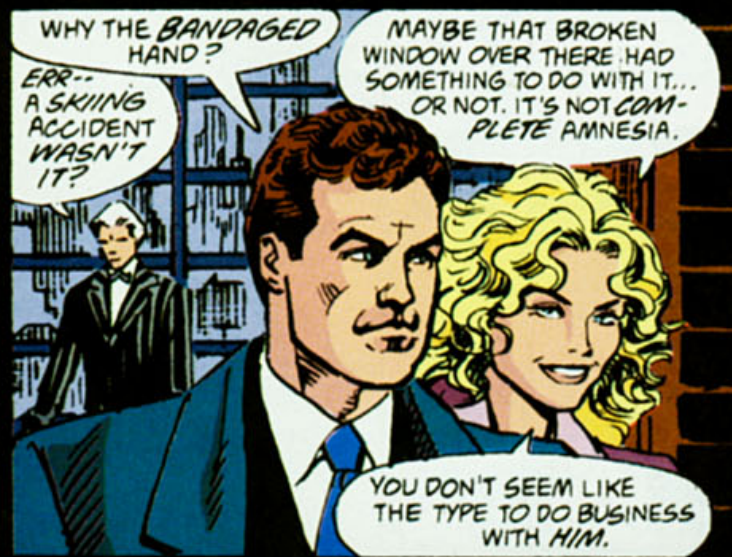
STRESS.



MISS
KITTY...?









THE CITY.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

AAGHH!
HELP, BAT--



NOW, NOW,
PRETTY YOUNG THING.
NICE AND EASY
AND--



OOPFF!

I JUST LOVE A BIG, STRONG
MAN WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO
SHOW IT WITH SOMEONE
HALF HIS SIZE.



WHO?



BE GENTLE...

IT'S MY
FIRST
TIME.



KRAKE



SLASH



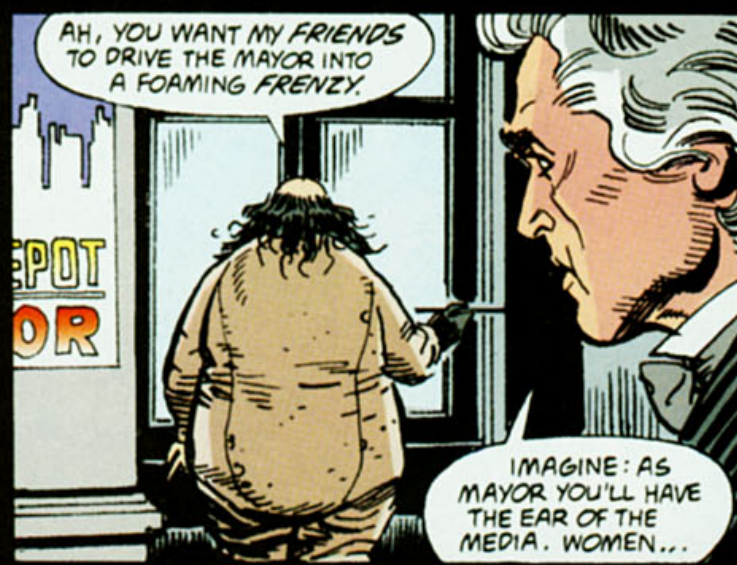
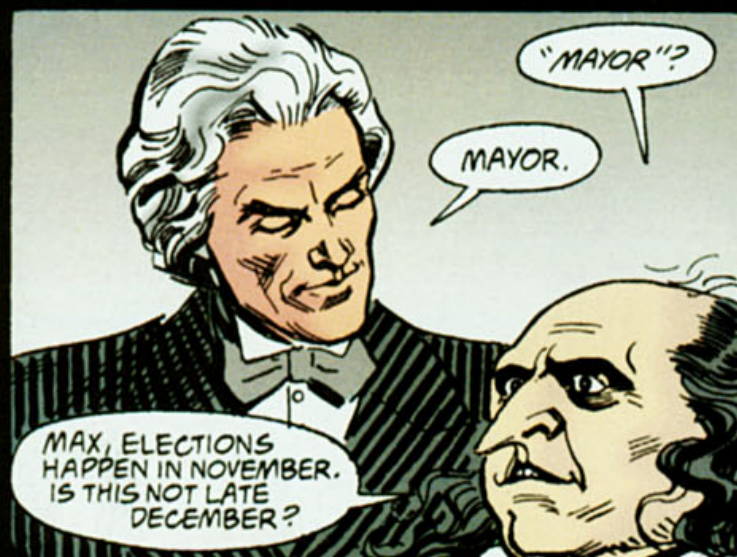
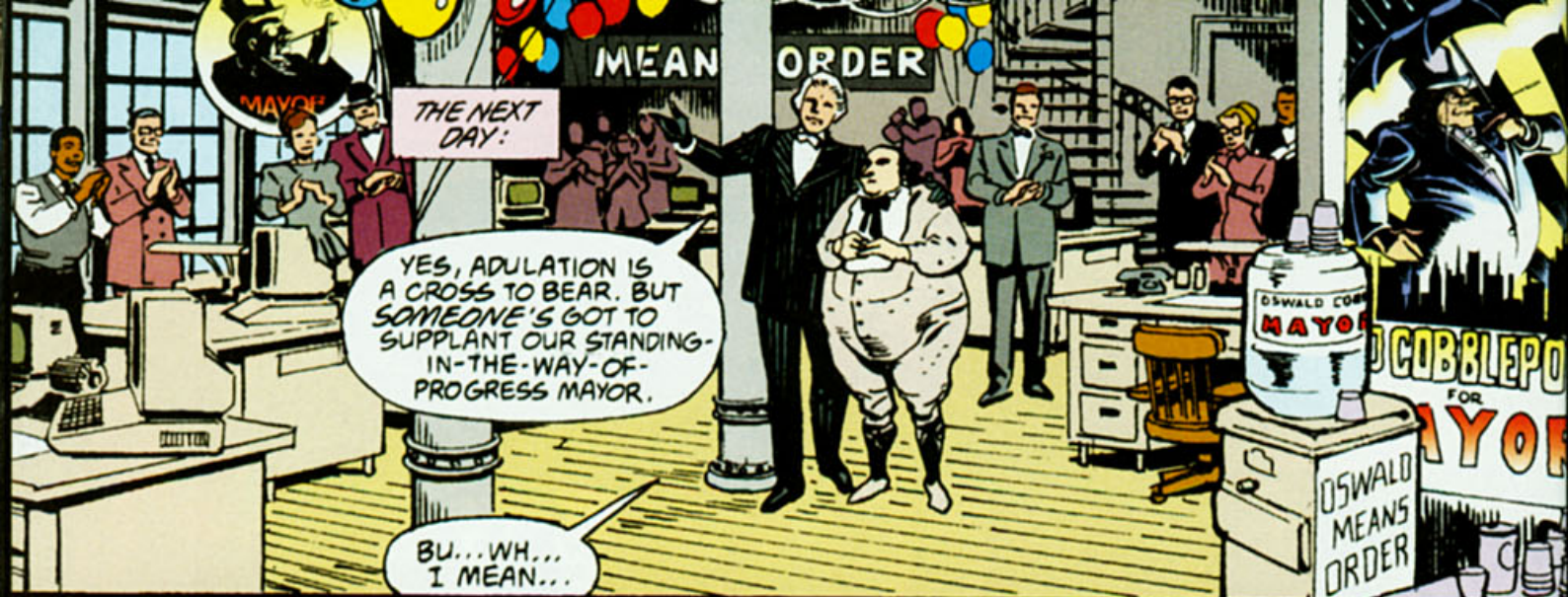
OH, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU! I
WAS SO SCARED
HE'D-- URK!

YOU MAKE
IT SO EASY,
DON'T YOU?

ALWAYS
WAITING FOR
SOME BATMAN
TO SAVE YOU.



I'M
CATWOMAN.
HEAR ME ROAR.





A TELLER MACHINE
EXPLODED.



THE ICE RINK WAS
TORCHED.
AND NOW THE TWELFTH
PRECINCT REPORTS
OFFENSIVE GRAFFITI
AND A PHARMACY
HEIST.



LOVE TO GET MY
FLIPPERS DIRTY. BUST
SOMEONE'S SKULL.
EAT SOMEONE'S
PET.



BUT, ACTION MUST
BE BALANCED WITH
DISCRETION...



AN ORGY OF
SEX AND
VIOLENCE?



COUNT ME IN,
MISS KITTY.



THE STREETS OF
GOTHAM--

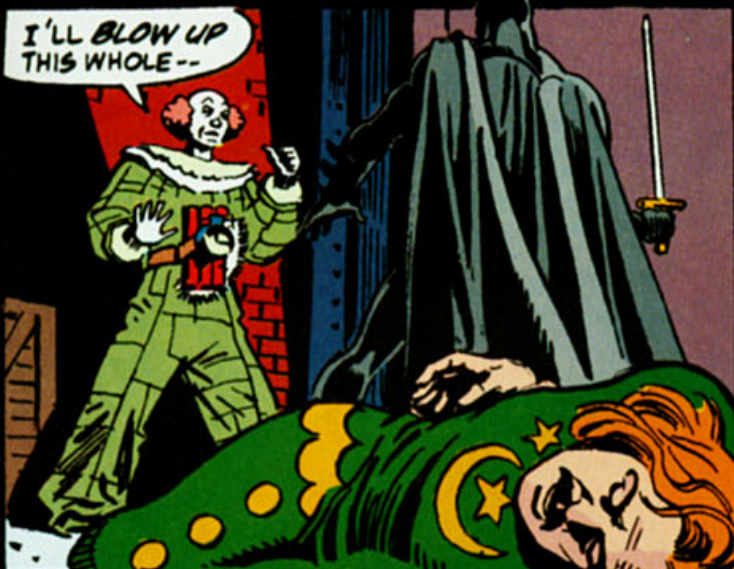
-- WHERE TONIGHT
THE RED TRIANGLE
GANG EXPANDS
THEIR REIGN OF
TERROR...

THAT'S IT.
TAKE WHATEVER
YOU-- WHAT?
OH NO!



H-HIM!













WHO ARE YOU?

WHO'S THE MAN BEHIND THE BAT?

MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME FIND THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CAT.



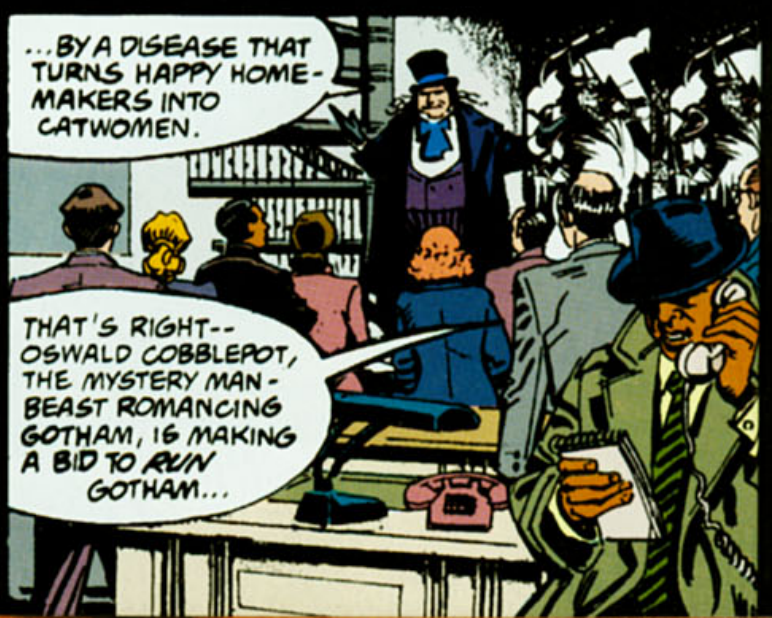
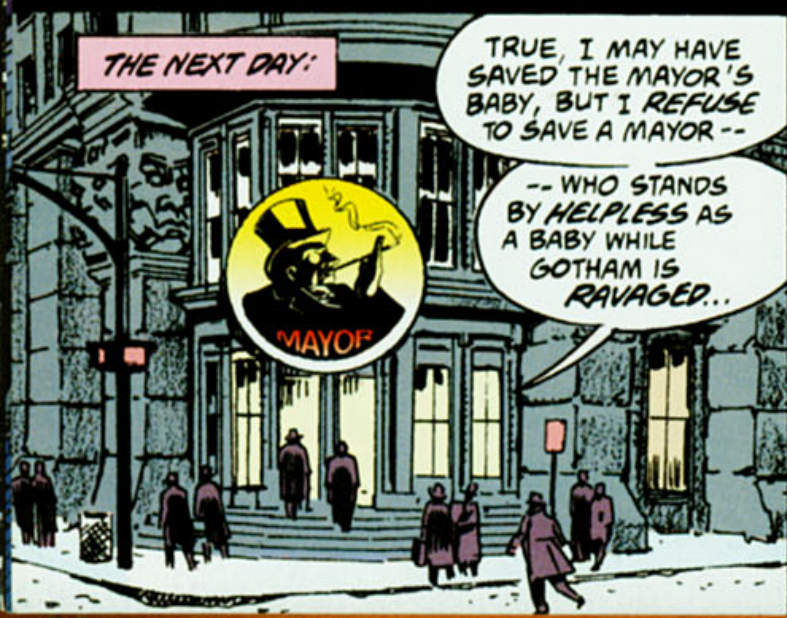
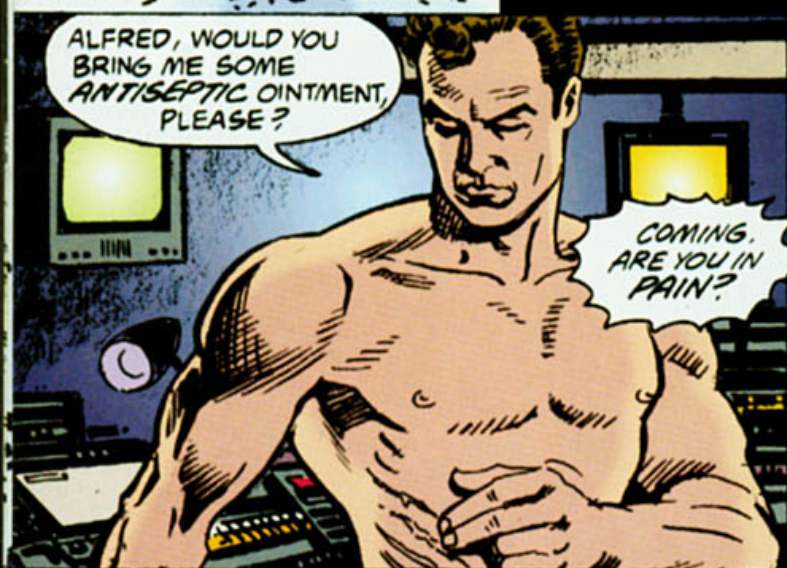
HMM-- THAT'S NOT HIM...

AH, THERE YOU ARE --



AARGH!

NO--!





YOU'RE THE COOLEST ROLE MODEL A YOUNG PERSON COULD HAVE!

AND YOU'RE THE HOTTEST YOUNG PERSON A ROLE MODEL COULD HAVE... BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW.



PENGUIN. HEY, PENGUIN, THERE'S A--

MY NAMES NOT PENGUIN! IT'S OSWALD!

OSWALD... SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.



WE NEED TO TALK. YOU SEE, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING IN COMMON.

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME-- NAKED SEXUAL CHARISMA.



BATMAN. THE THORN IN BOTH OUR SIDES.

HIM AGAIN! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU TWO? HE'S ALREADY HISTORY...



WE'RE GONNA TURN HIS BATMOBILE INTO AN H-BOMB ON WHEELS. YESTERDAY'S VICTOR IS TOMORROW'S VAPOR.



HE'D HAVE MORE POWER AS A MARTYR. NO, TO DESTROY BATMAN WE MUST FIRST TURN HIM INTO WHAT HE HATES MOST. NAMELY US.

Y'MEAN FRAME HIM?



YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL, PUSS!

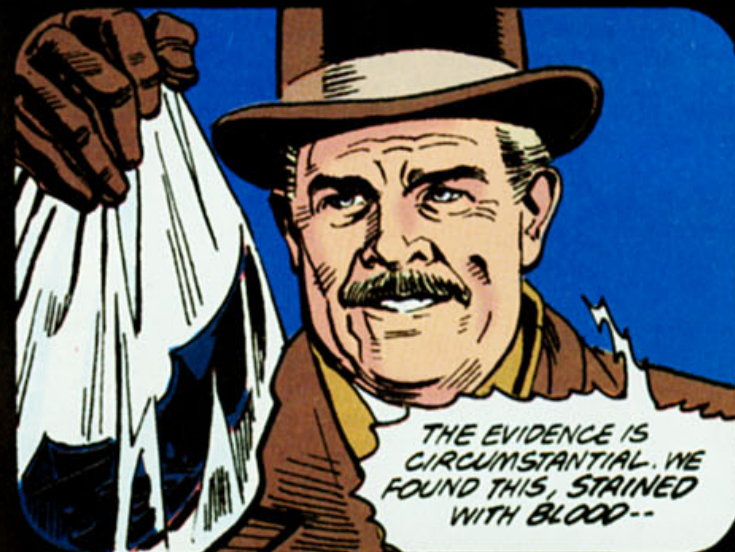
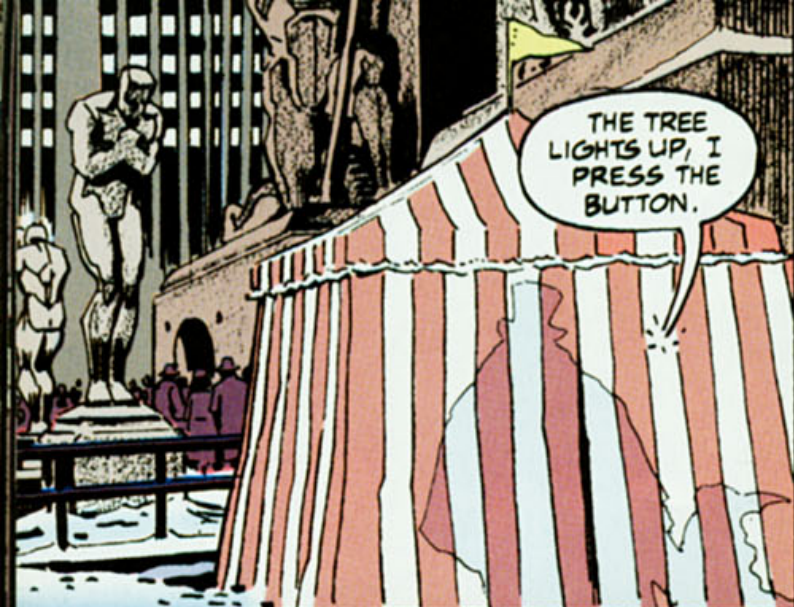
...AND SO I CHALLENGE THE MAYOR TO RE-LIGHT THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN GOTHAM PLAZA--



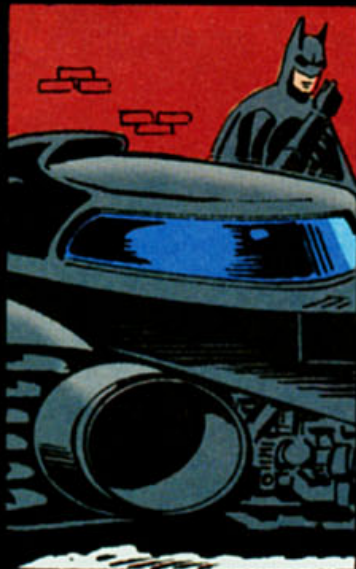
-- TO PROVE WE CAN CARRY ON WITHOUT FEAR.

I JUST PRAY BATMAN WILL BE THERE TO PRESERVE THE PEACE.

SUBTLE.

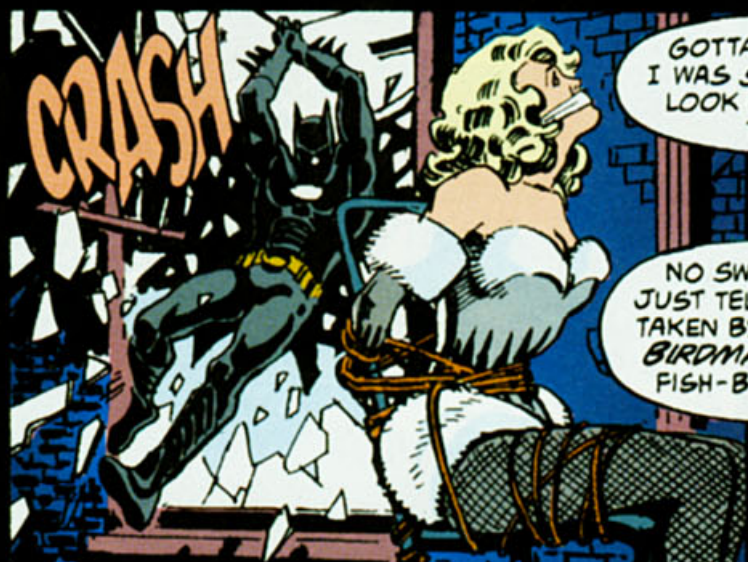
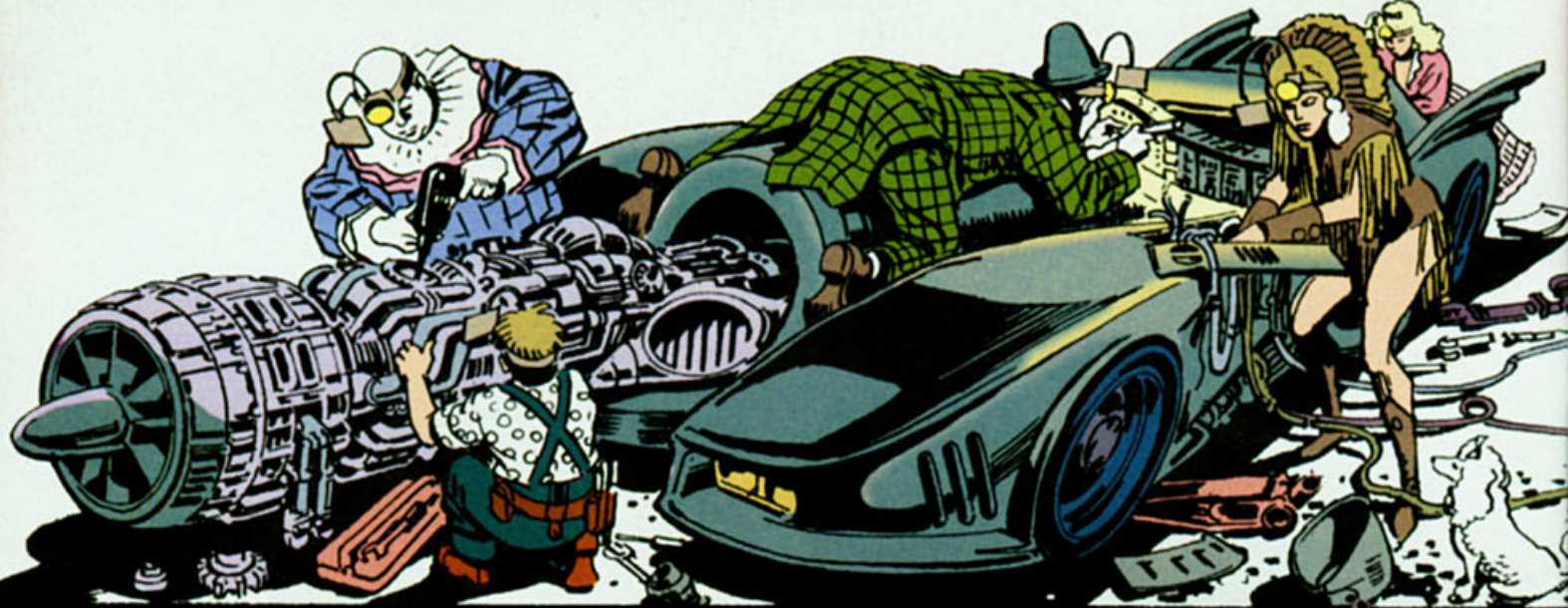


"I HAVE TO
GET TO THE
PLAZA..."



"THERE'S WORK
TO BE DONE."



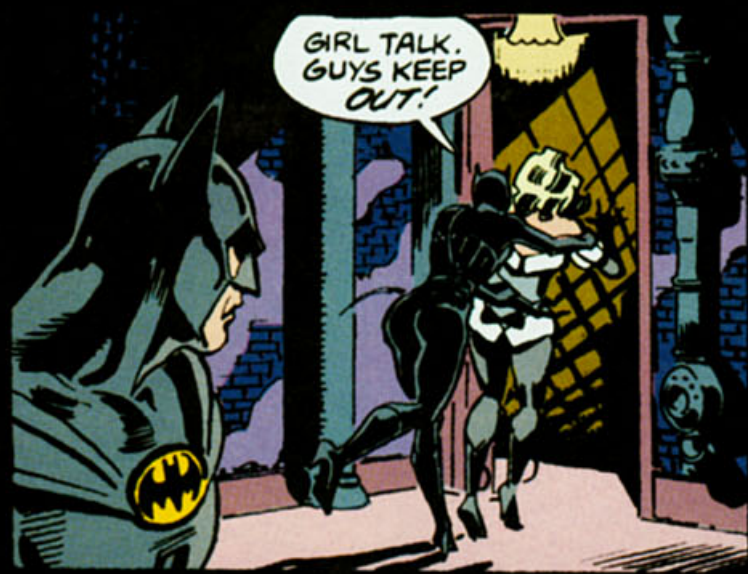
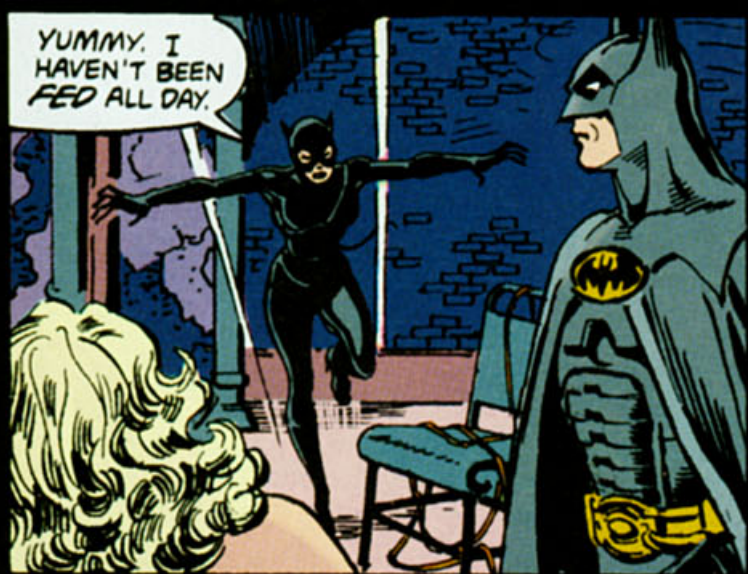


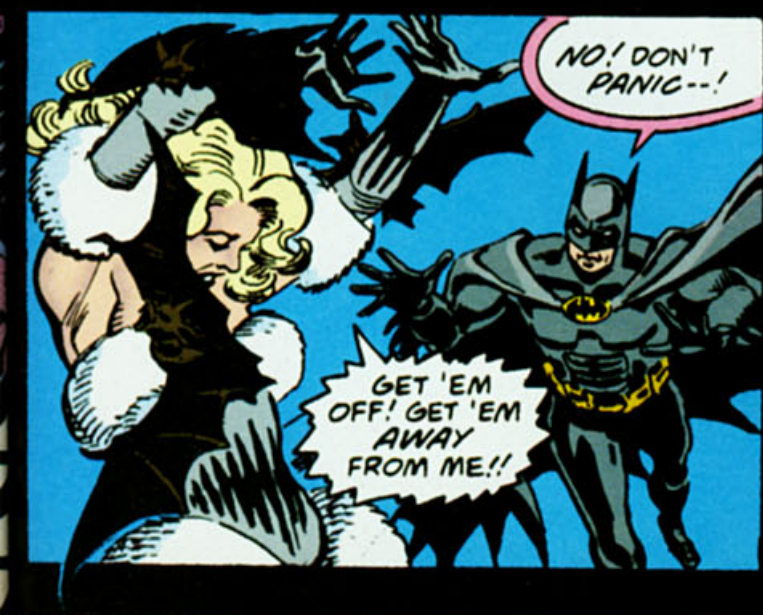
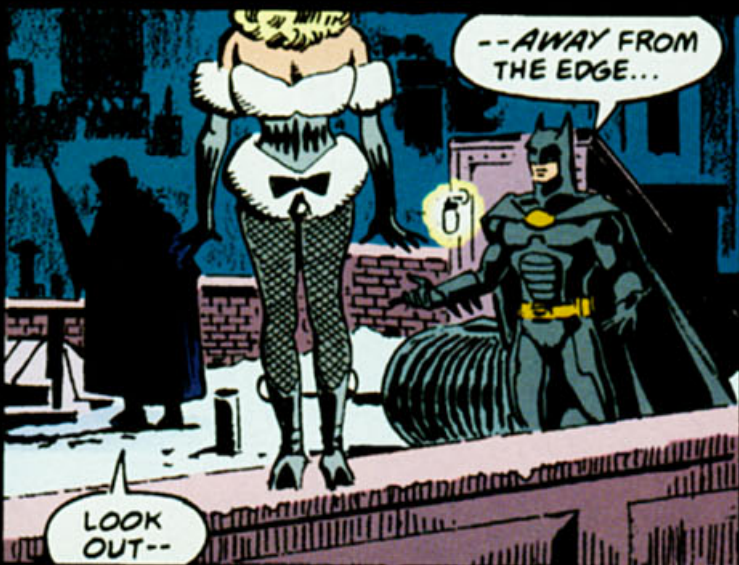
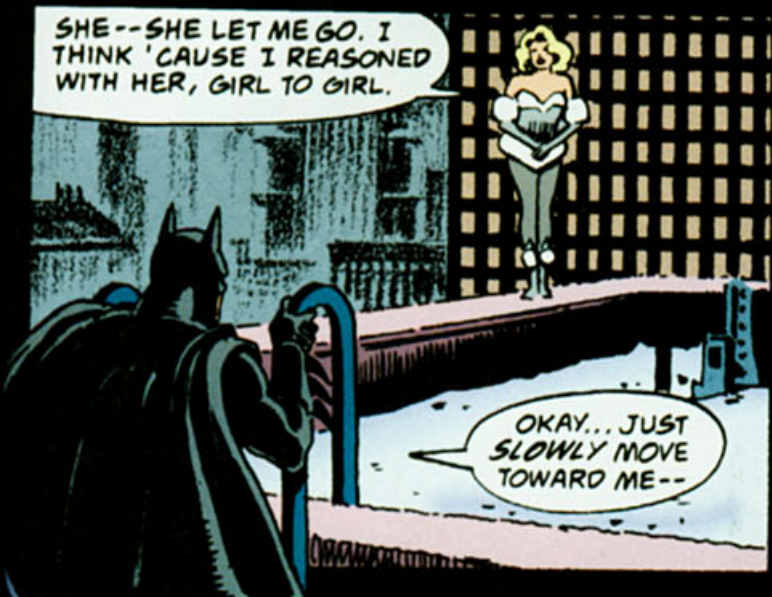
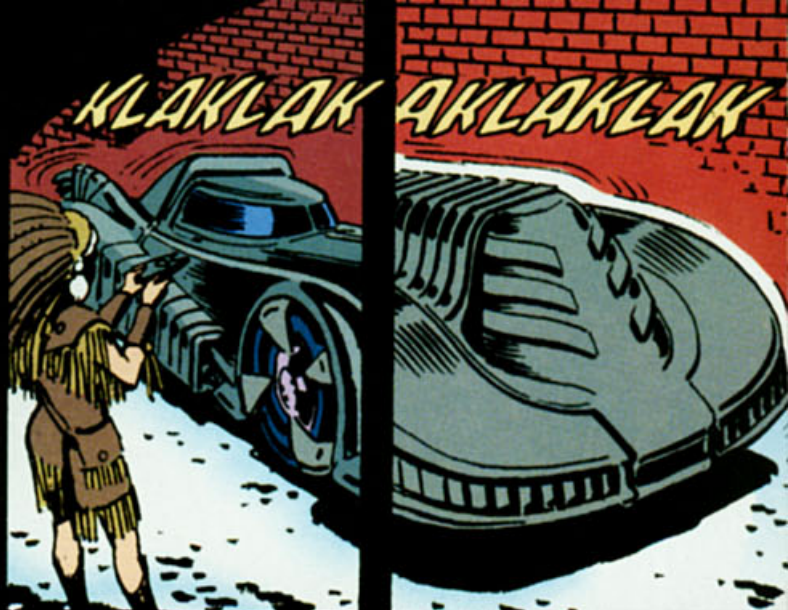
GOTTA HURRY. I WAS SET UP TO LOOK LIKE I DID THIS.

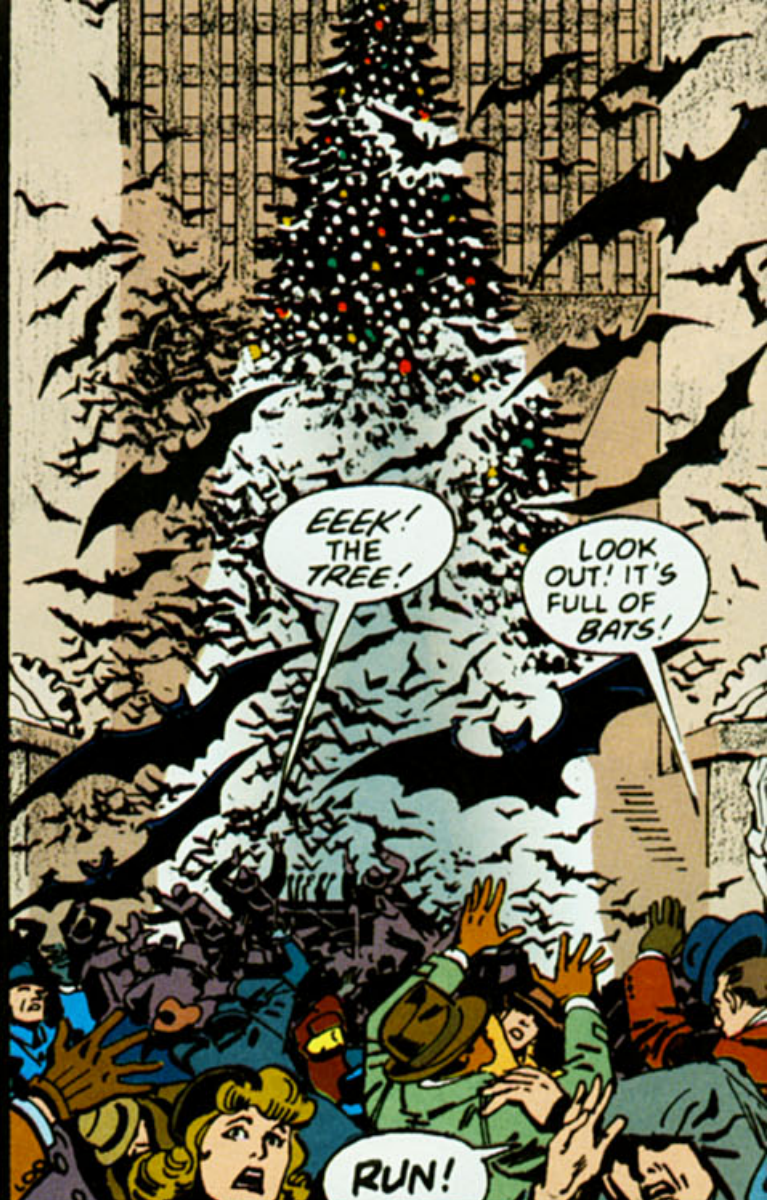
NO SWEAT, I'LL JUST TELL 'EM I WAS TAKEN BY AN UGLY *BURDMAN* WITH FISH-BREATH.



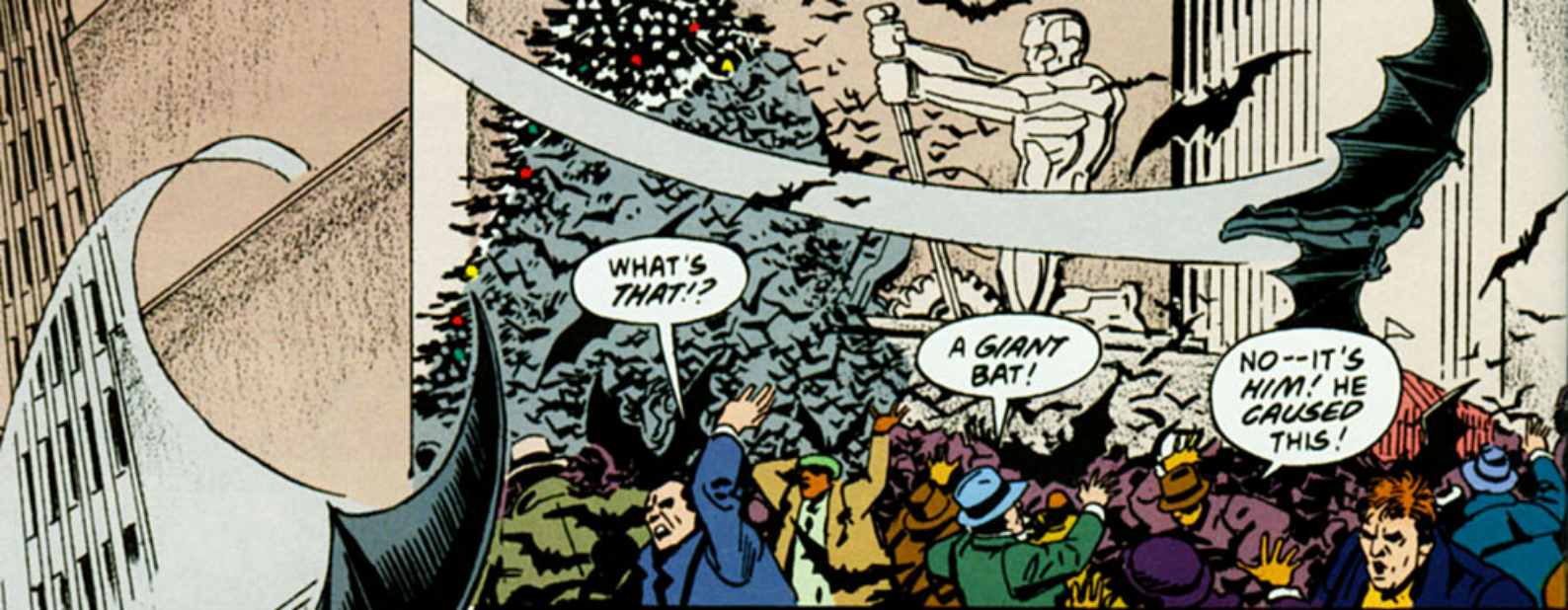
DID SOMEONE SAY "FISH"?







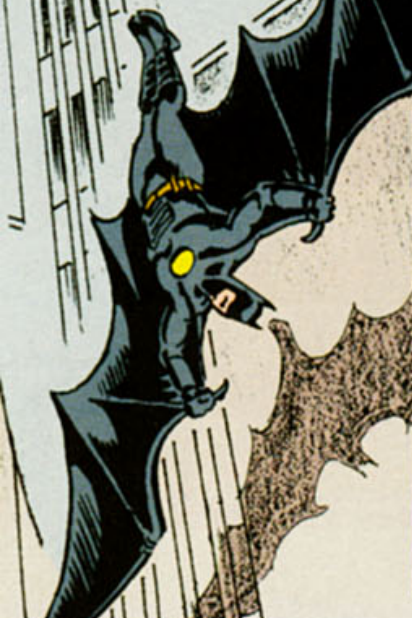




WHAT'S THAT!?

A GIANT BAT!

NO--IT'S HIM! HE CAUSED THIS!



OUTSTANDING. YOU'RE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.



YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SCARE THE ICE PRINCESS!

AND I KEPT MY WORD!

THE LADY LOOKED TERRIFIED.



SO WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S CONSUMMATE OUR FIENDISH UNION.



OH PLEASE. I WOULDN'T TOUCH YOU TO SCRATCH YOU.

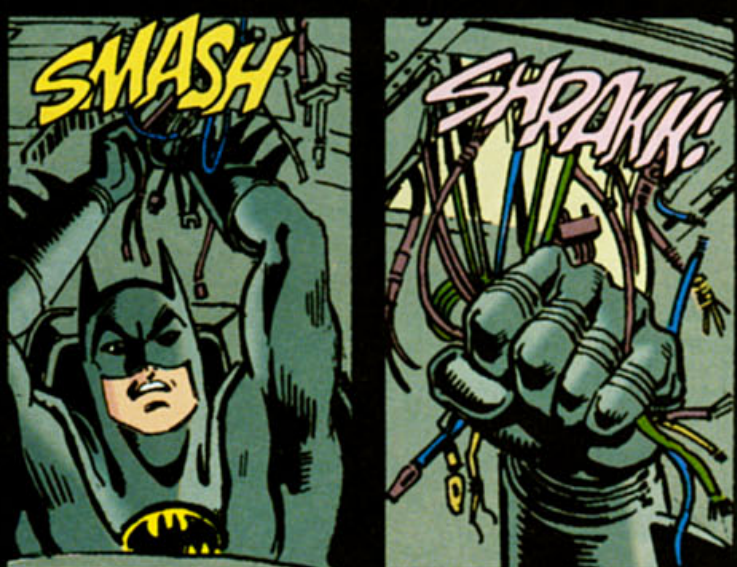
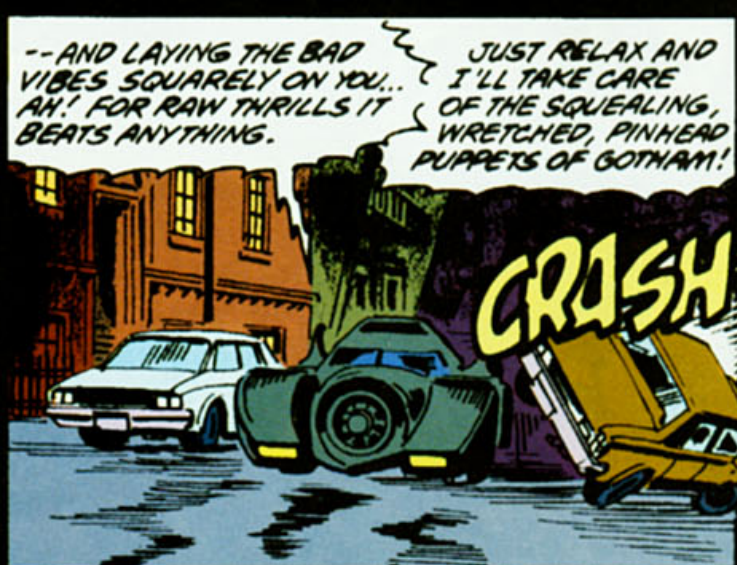
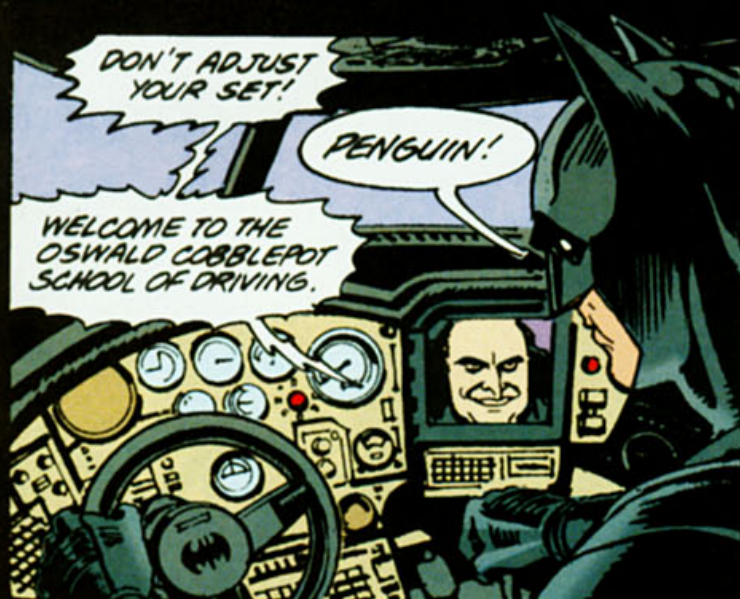
YOU LOUSY MINX! YOU SENT OUT ALL THE SIGNALS!

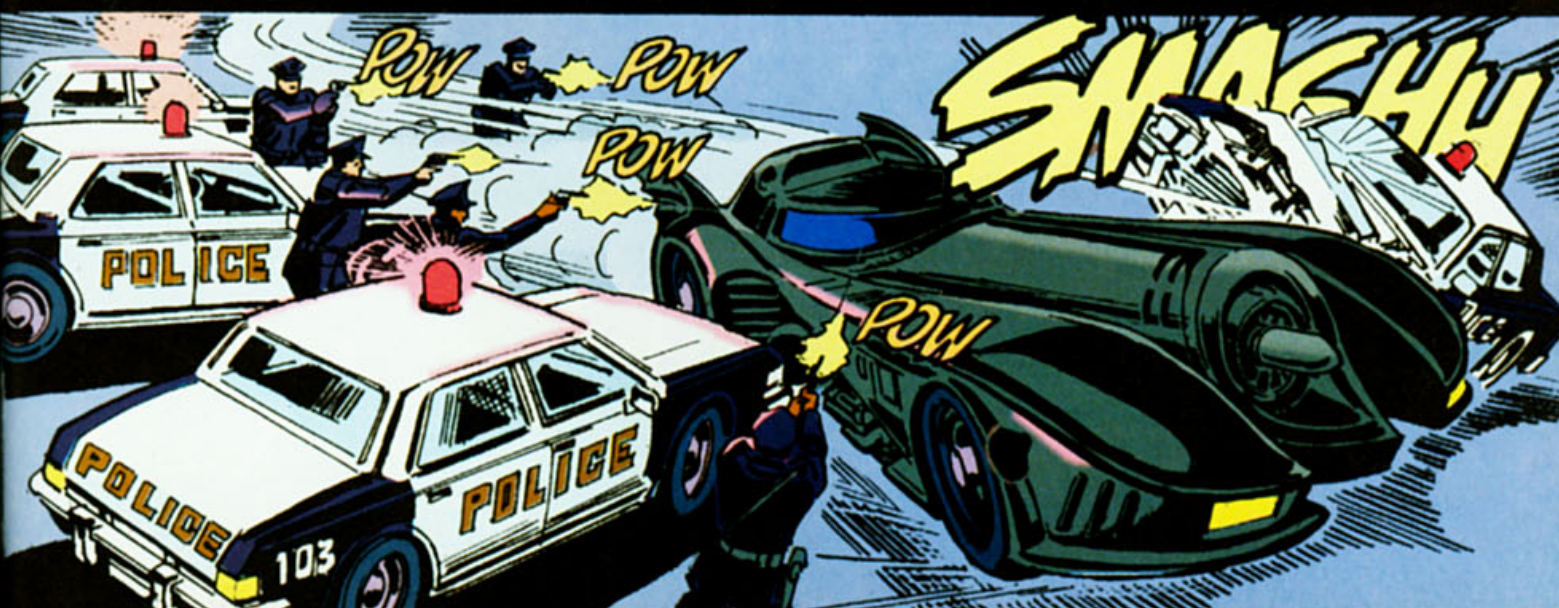
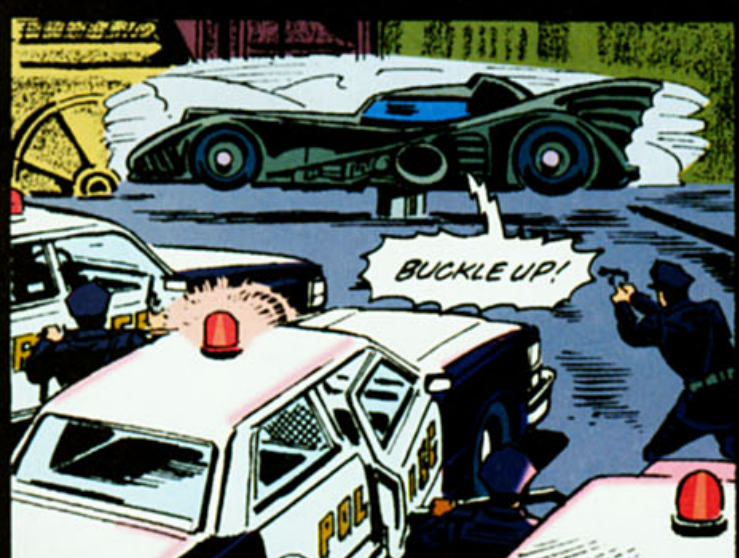
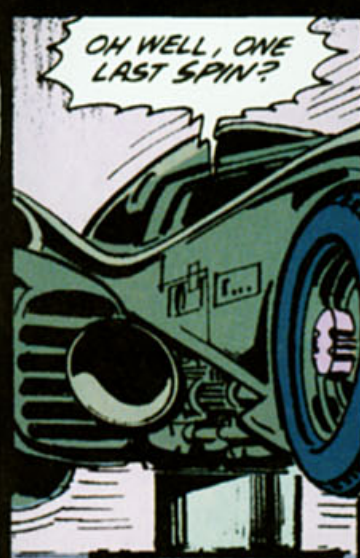
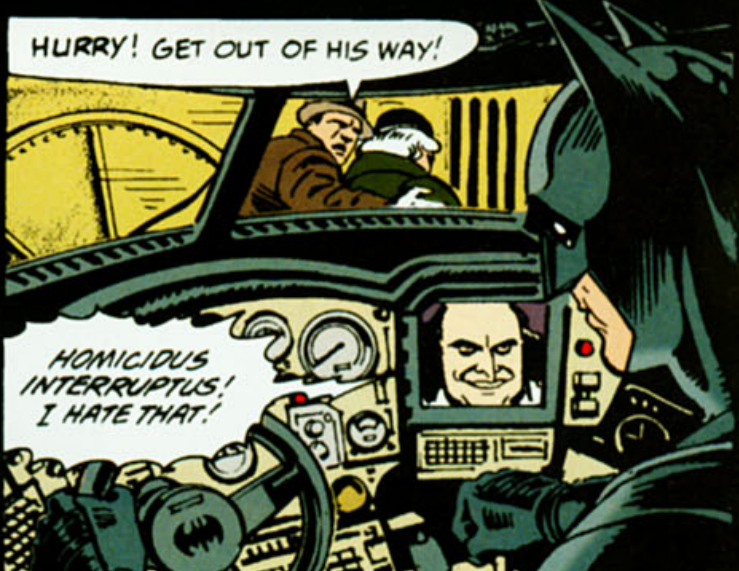
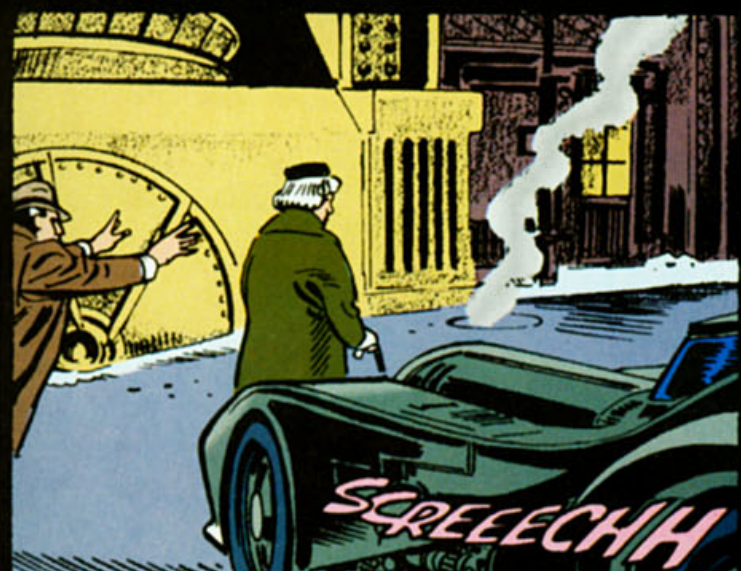


HMMF. I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU ANYMORE.

FLPPPP









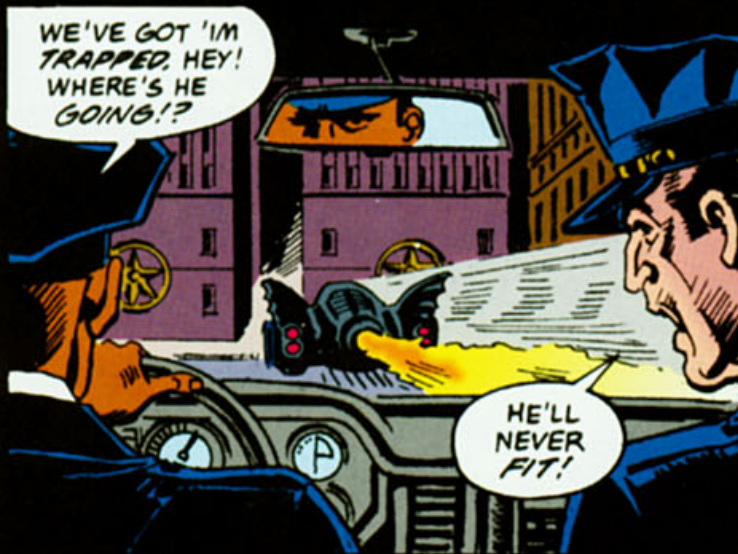
THIS CLOSE TO
A PERFECT
EVENING!



THERE
HE GOES!

SPARK!
THAT'S
FUNNY...

UROOM



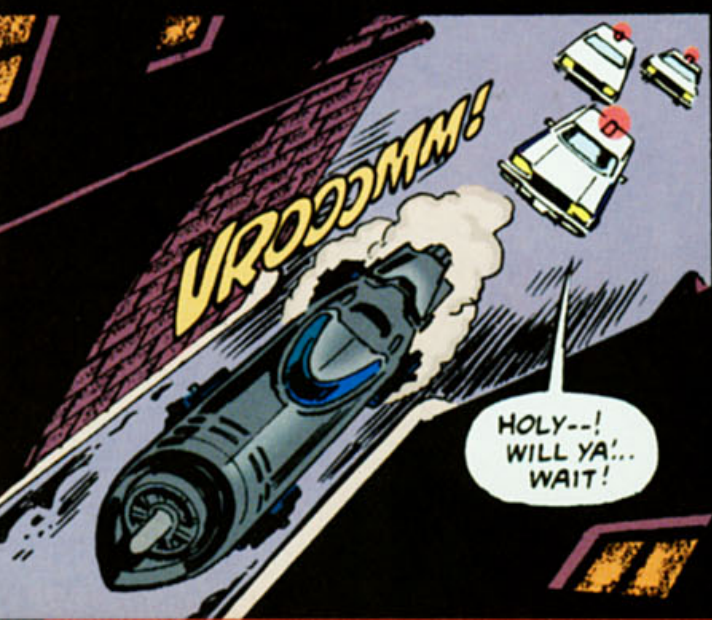
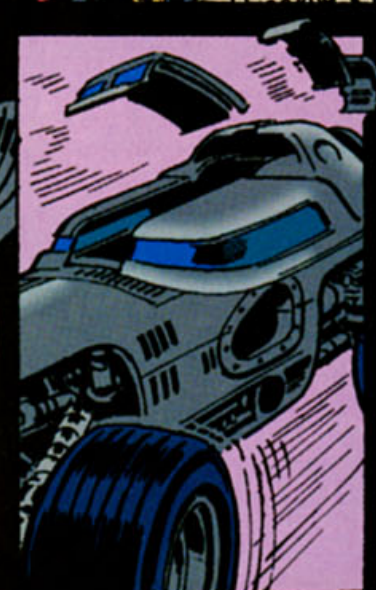
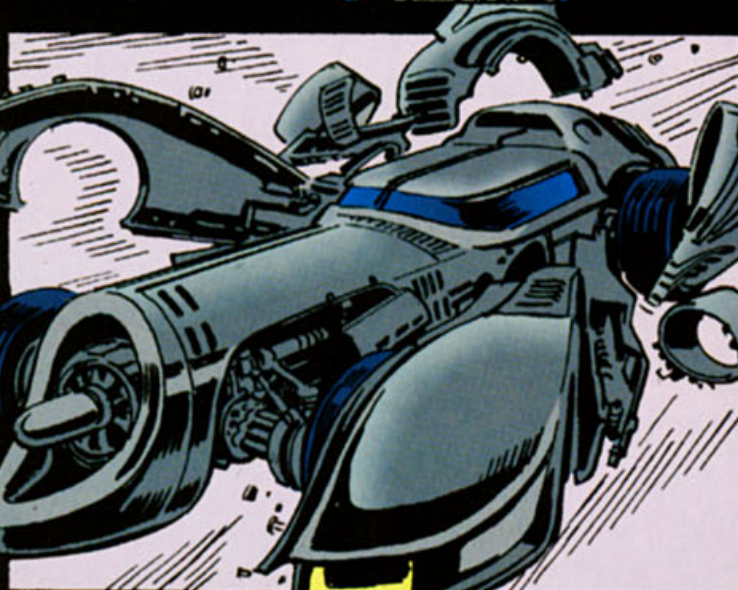
WE'VE GOT 'IM
TRAPPED, HEY!
WHERE'S HE
GOING!?

HE'LL
NEVER
FIT!

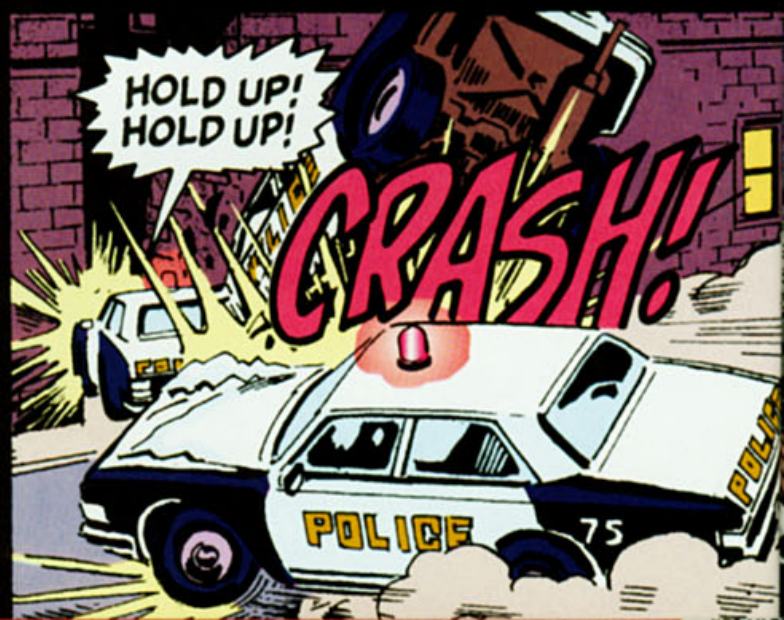


NOW I'M A
LITTLE
WORRIED...

SPARK!

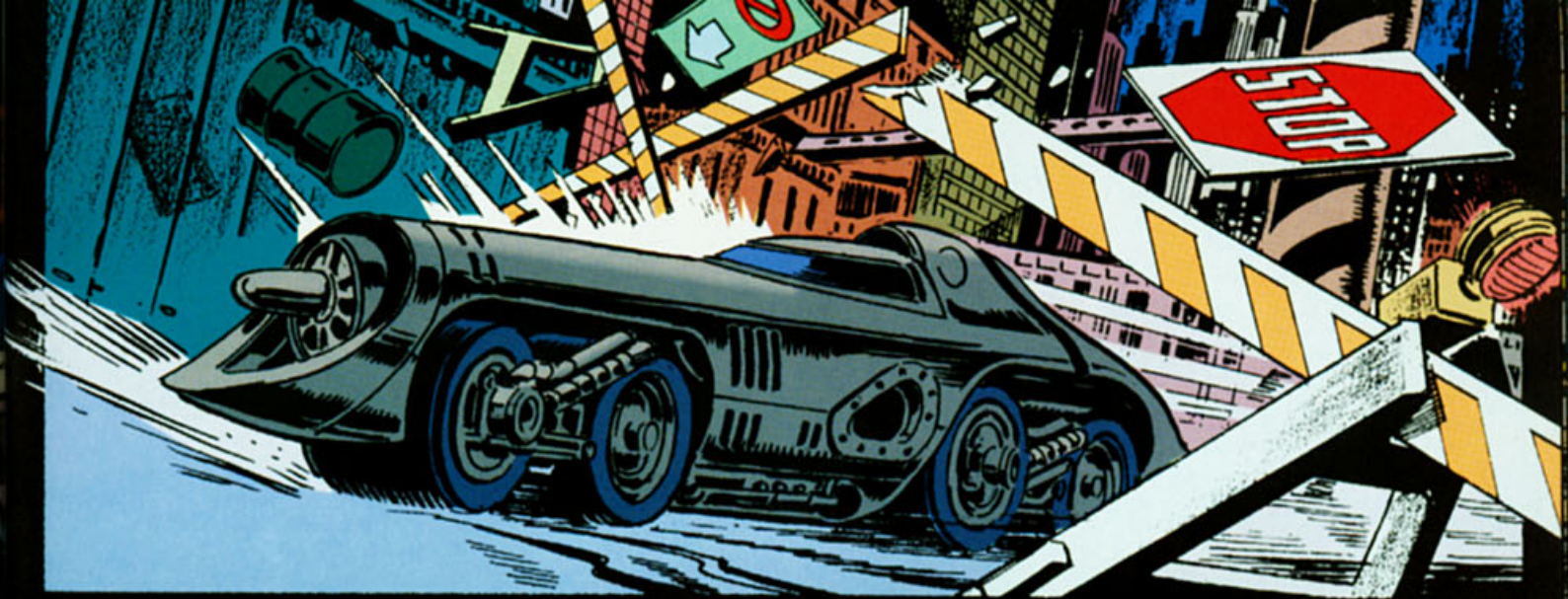


HOLY--!
WILL YA...
WAIT!



HOLD UP!
HOLD UP!

CRASH!



GOTHAM PLAZA,
THE NEXT DAY...

...SO HE SURVIVED.
C'MON, BE A MENSCH.
STAND IT.

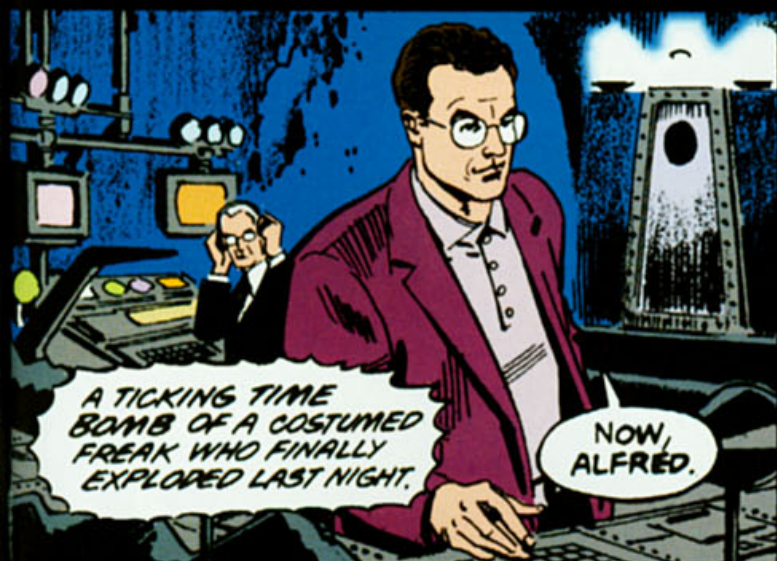
HE DIDN'T EVEN LOSE
A LIMB, AN EYEBALL...
BLADDER CONTROL...

SSSH. TIME
FOR YOUR
SPEECH.



MY FRIENDS, WHEN IT CAME TIME TO
ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CITY, DID
THE MAYOR HAVE A PLAN?

NO, HE RELIED ON
A MAN. A 'BAT'
MAN.



A TICKING TIME
BOMB OF A COSTUMED
FREAK WHO FINALLY
EXPLODED LAST NIGHT.

NOW,
ALFRED.



FINDING
FREQUENCY.

YOU ASK, AM I UP
HERE FOR PERSONAL
GLORY? NO, THE
GLORY I YEARN TO
RECAPTURE IS OF--



FREQUENCY
JAMMED.

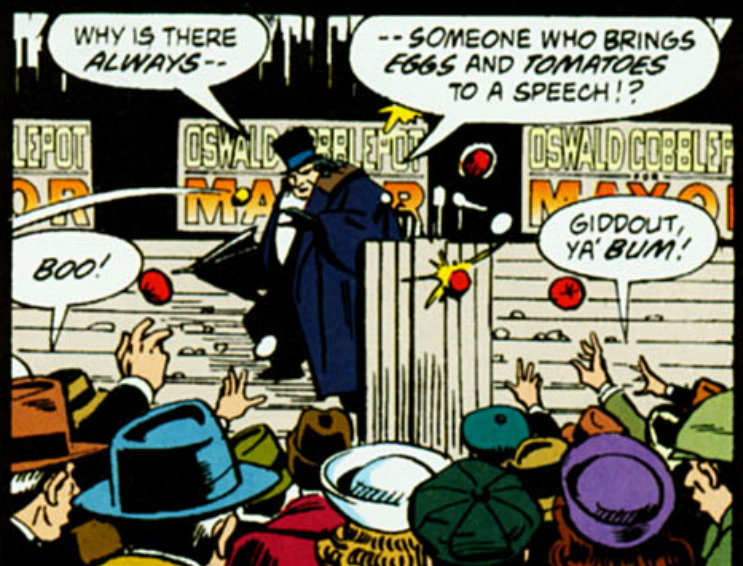
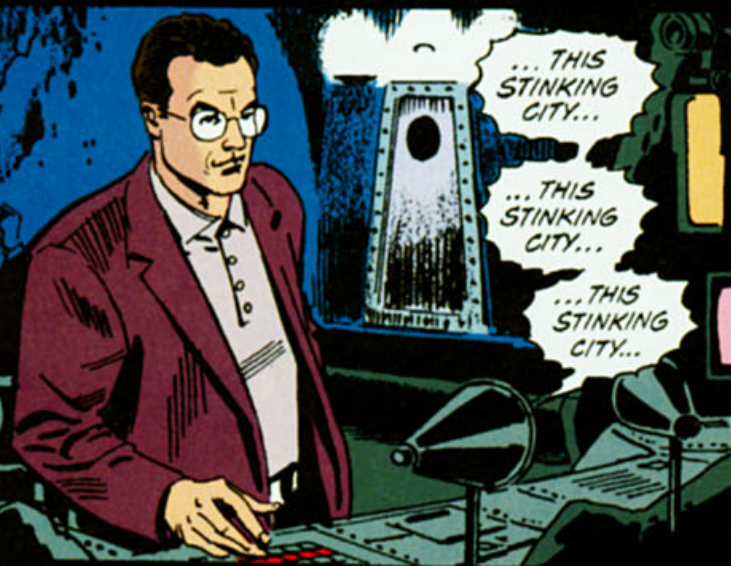


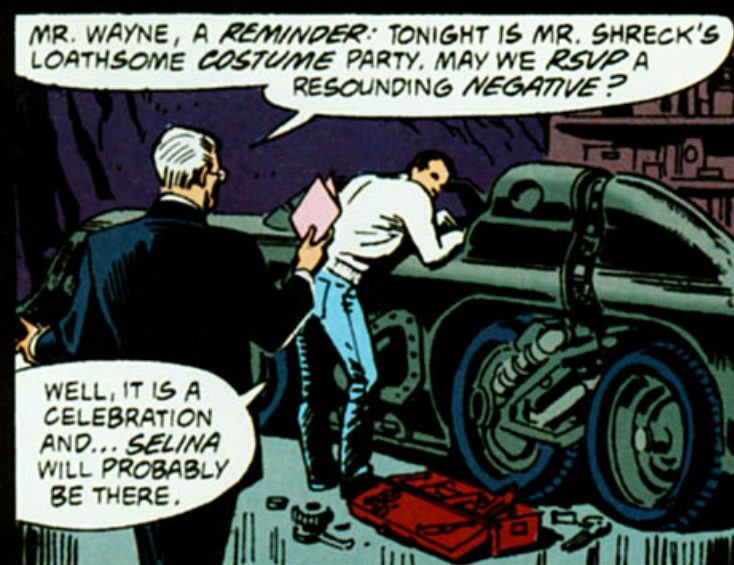
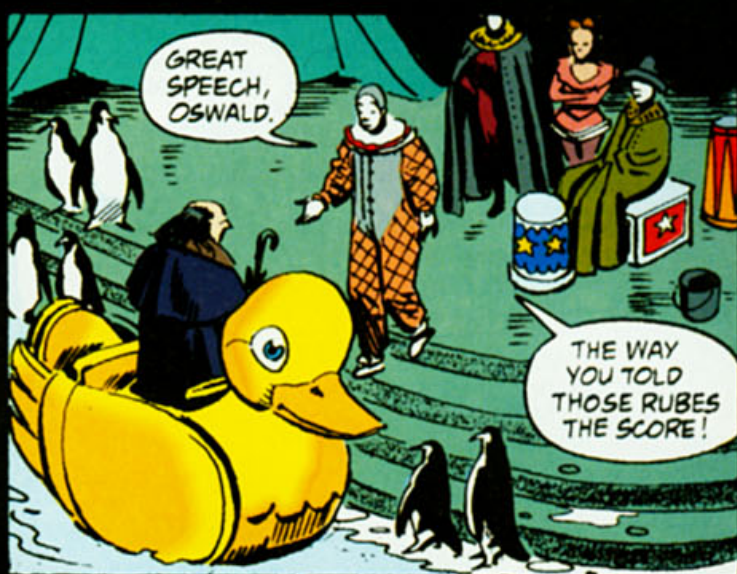
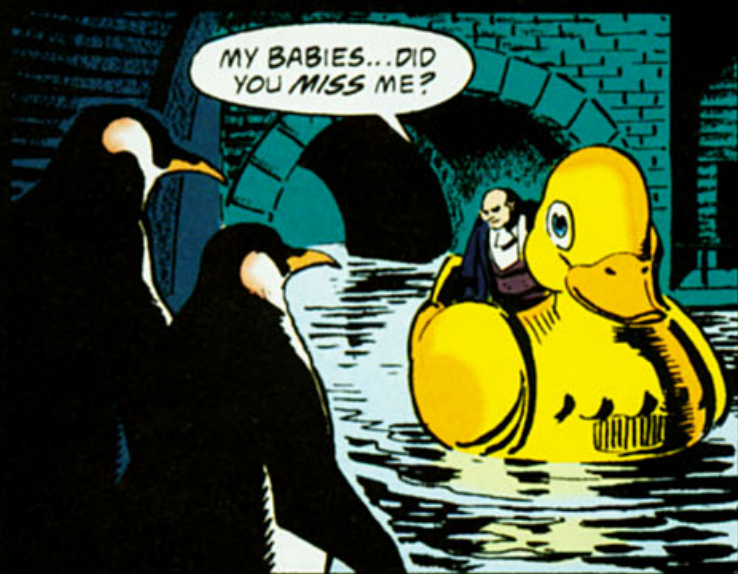
CLIK!

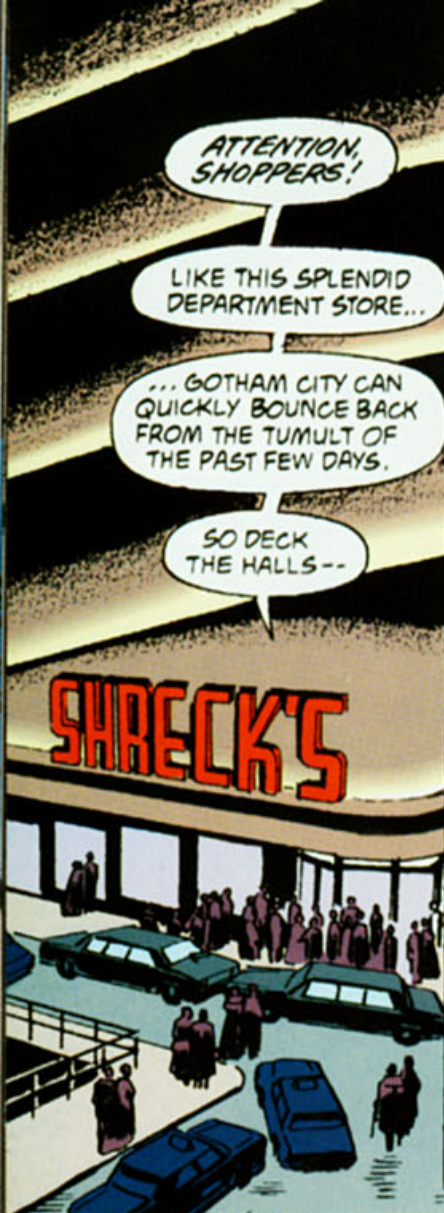


--THE SQUEALING,
WRETCHED, PINHEAD
PUPPETS OF GOTHAM.

WAIT A SEC--
I DIDN'T
SAY THAT!







ATTENTION, SHOPPERS!

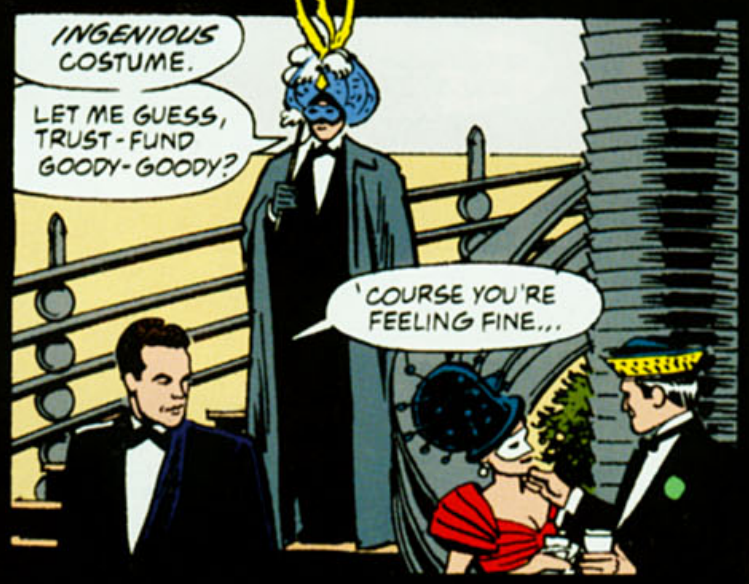
LIKE THIS SPLENDID DEPARTMENT STORE...

... GOTHAM CITY CAN QUICKLY BOUNCE BACK FROM THE TUMULT OF THE PAST FEW DAYS.

SO DECK THE HALLS--



-- AND SHAKE YOUR BOOTIES!



INGENIOUS COSTUME.

LET ME GUESS, TRUST-FUND GOODY-GOODY?

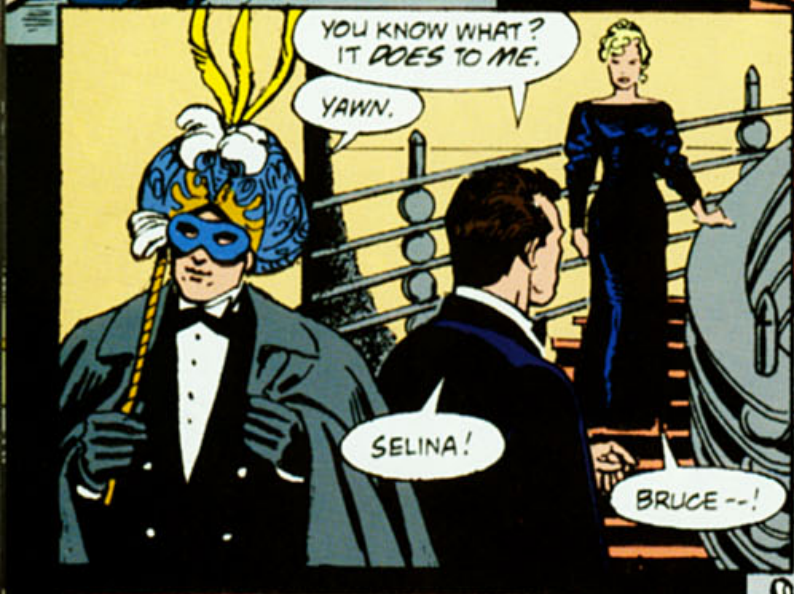
'COURSE YOU'RE FEELING FINE...



... YOU ALMOST MADE A MONSTER THE MAYOR OF GOTHAM.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THIS CITY. AND I AM ITS MEAN, TWISTED SOUL.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHO'S "MAYOR"?



YOU KNOW WHAT? IT DOES TO ME.

YAWN.

SELINA!

BRUCE--!



SO WHY'D YOU COME TONIGHT?

YOU FIRST.

TO SEE YOU.



THAT'S LOVELY AND I REALLY WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME, BUT I CAME FOR MAX.

YOU DON'T MEAN... YOU AND MAX--?



THIS AND MAX.



WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?

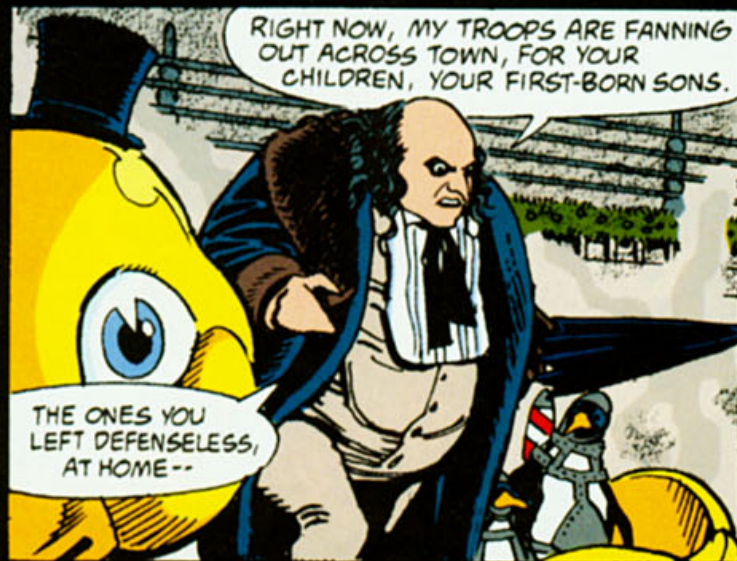
LOOK--
THE FLOOR!



WHAT IS
THAT?



YOU DIDN'T
INVITE ME, SO
I CRASHED.



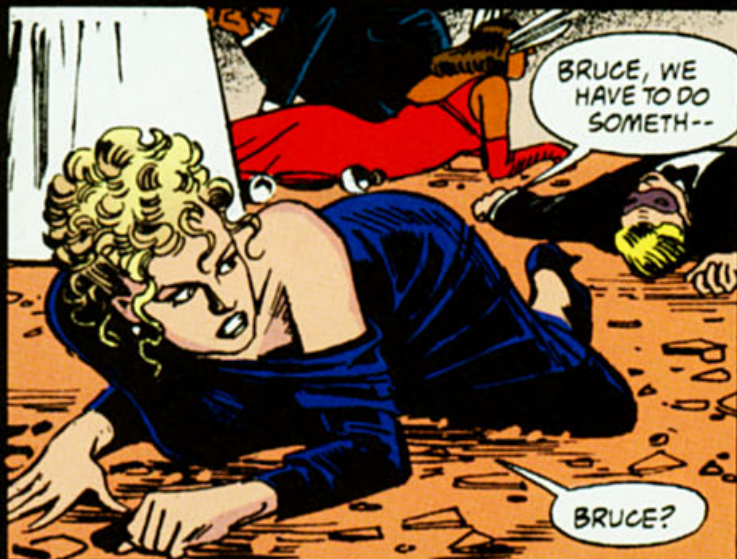
RIGHT NOW, MY TROOPS ARE FANNING
OUT ACROSS TOWN, FOR YOUR
CHILDREN, YOUR FIRST-BORN SONS.

THE ONES YOU
LEFT DEFENSELESS,
AT HOME--



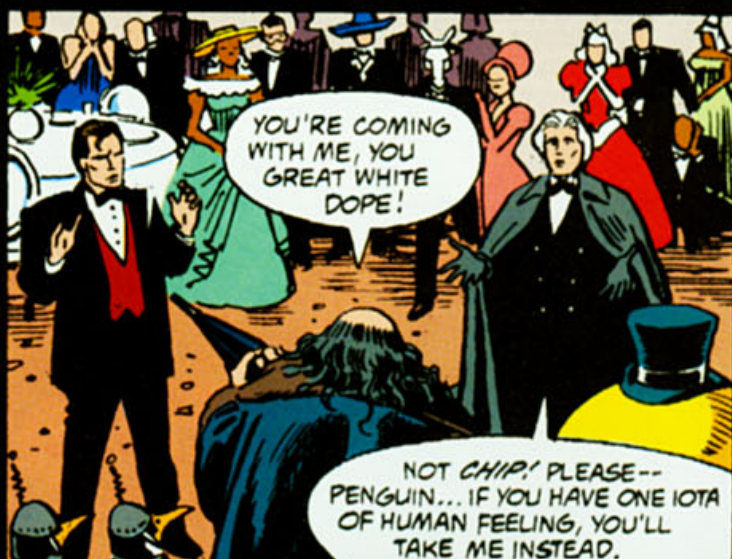
-- SO YOU COULD DRESS UP LIKE
JERKS, GET JUICED, DANCE
BADLY..

I'VE PERSONALLY
COME FOR GOTHAM'S
FAVORITE SON... MR.
CHIP SHRECK!



BRUCE, WE
HAVE TO DO
SOMETH--

BRUCE?



YOU'RE COMING
WITH ME, YOU
GREAT WHITE
DOPE!

NOT CHIP! PLEASE--
PENGUIN... IF YOU HAVE ONE IOTA
OF HUMAN FEELING, YOU'LL
TAKE ME INSTEAD.



I'M THE ONE YOU WANT. ISN'T
IT MAX SHRECK WHO MANIPULATED
YOU? ISN'T IT MAX YOU WANT TO
SEE IMMERSSED TO HIS EYE-
BALLS IN RAW SEWAGE?

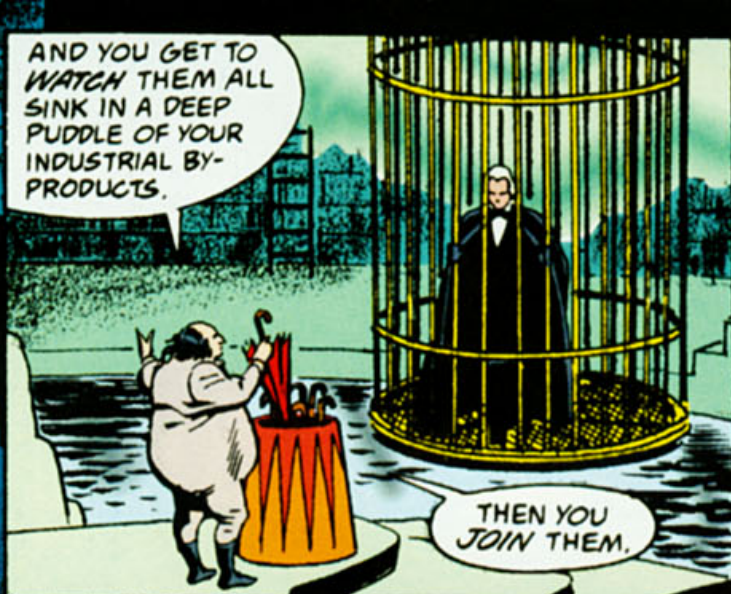


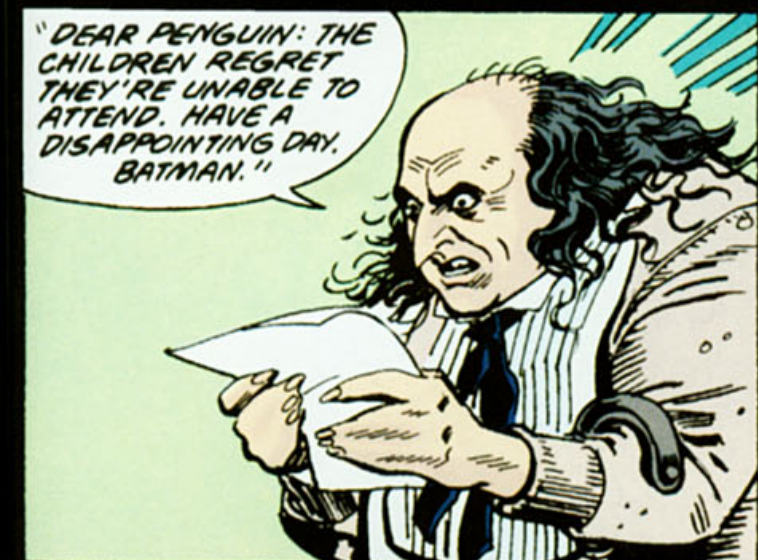
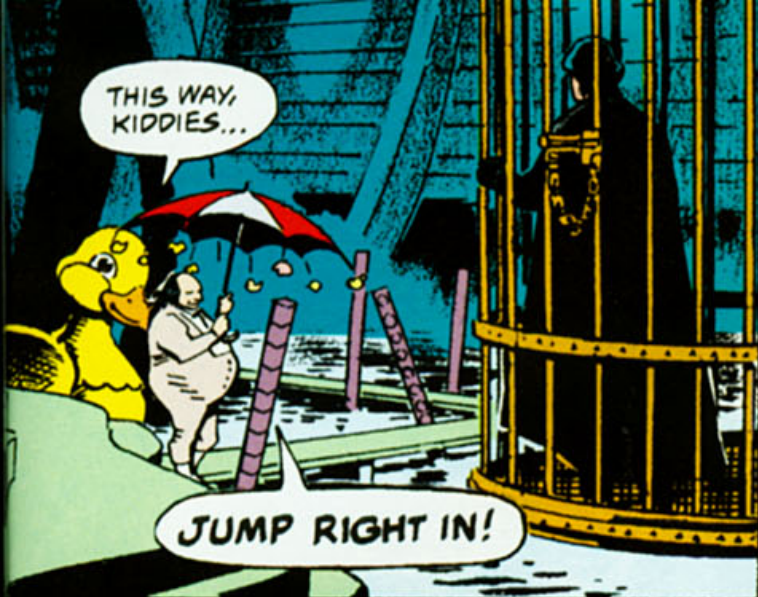
OKAY, YOU HAVE A POINT.
PLUS THE HYSTERICS
ARE GETTING ON MY
NERVES.

LET KNUTE ROCKNE
LIVE.

FOR
NOW.

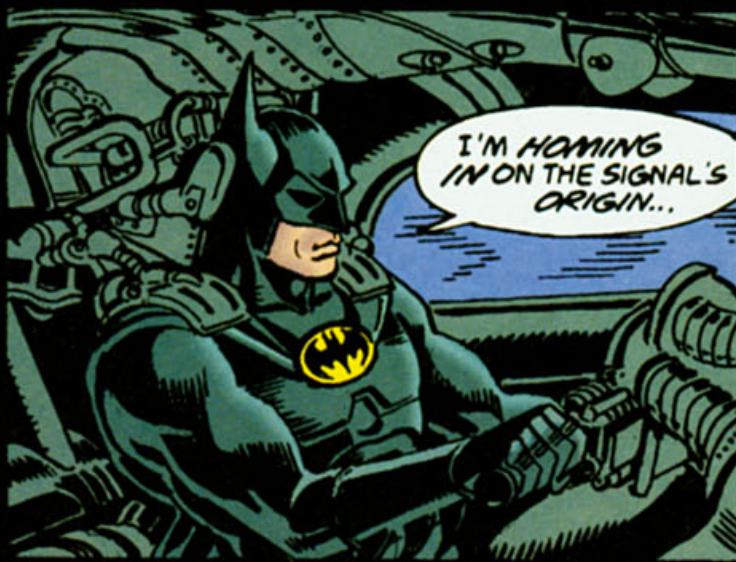


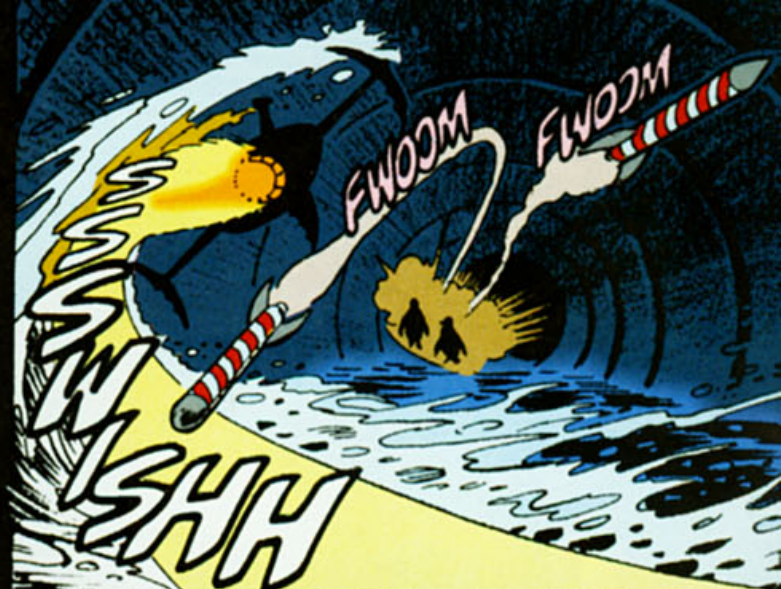


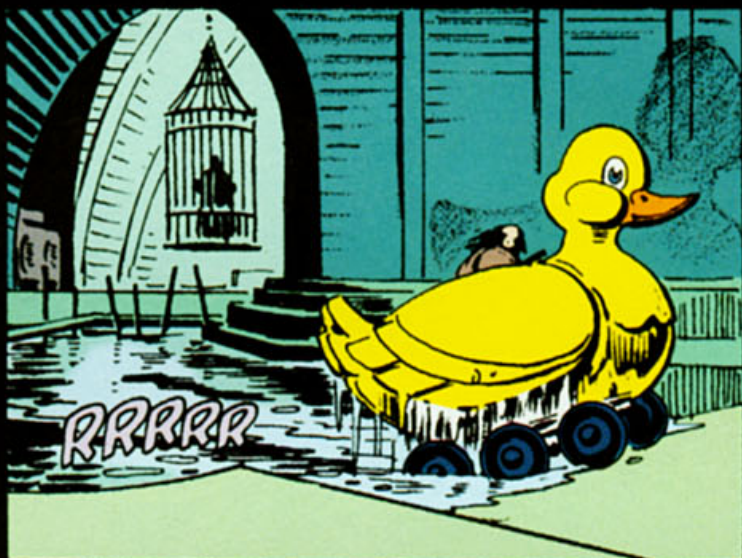
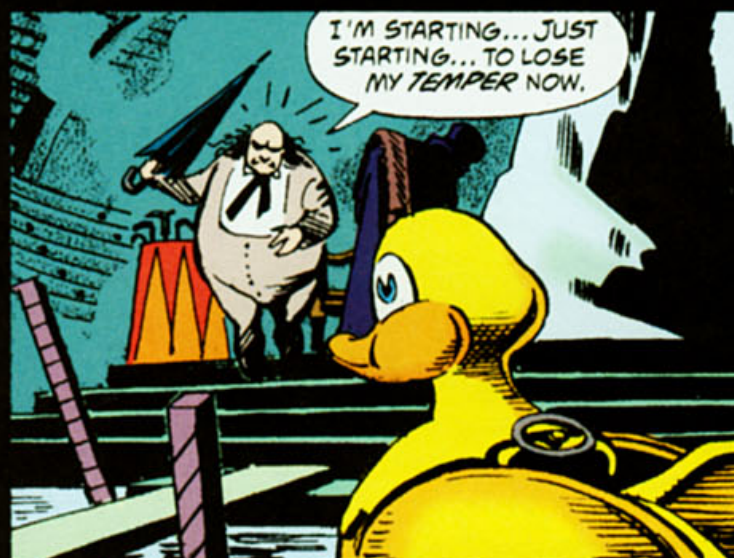
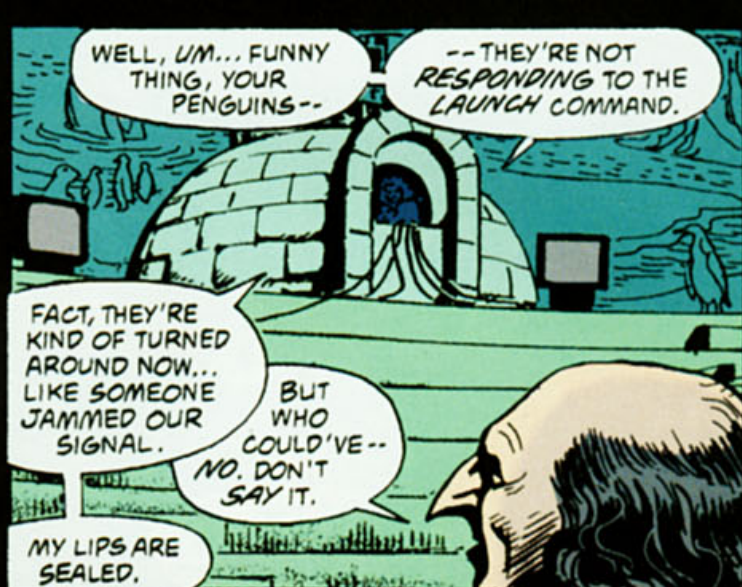


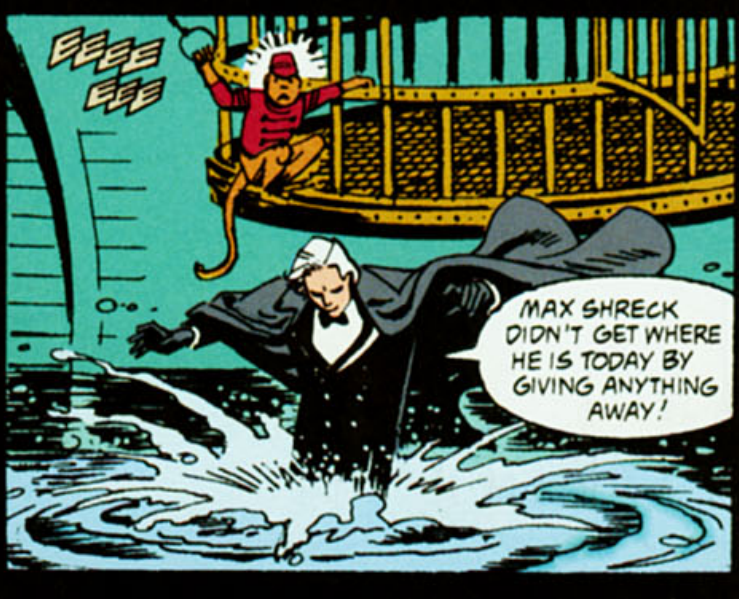
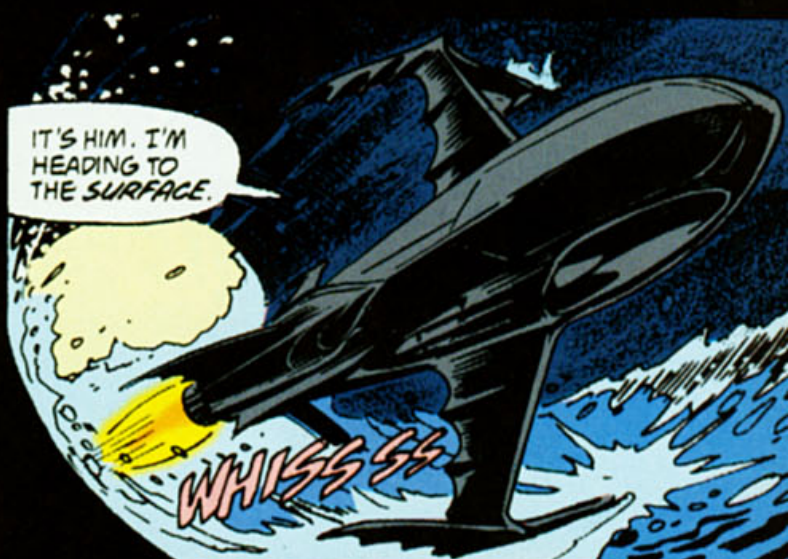
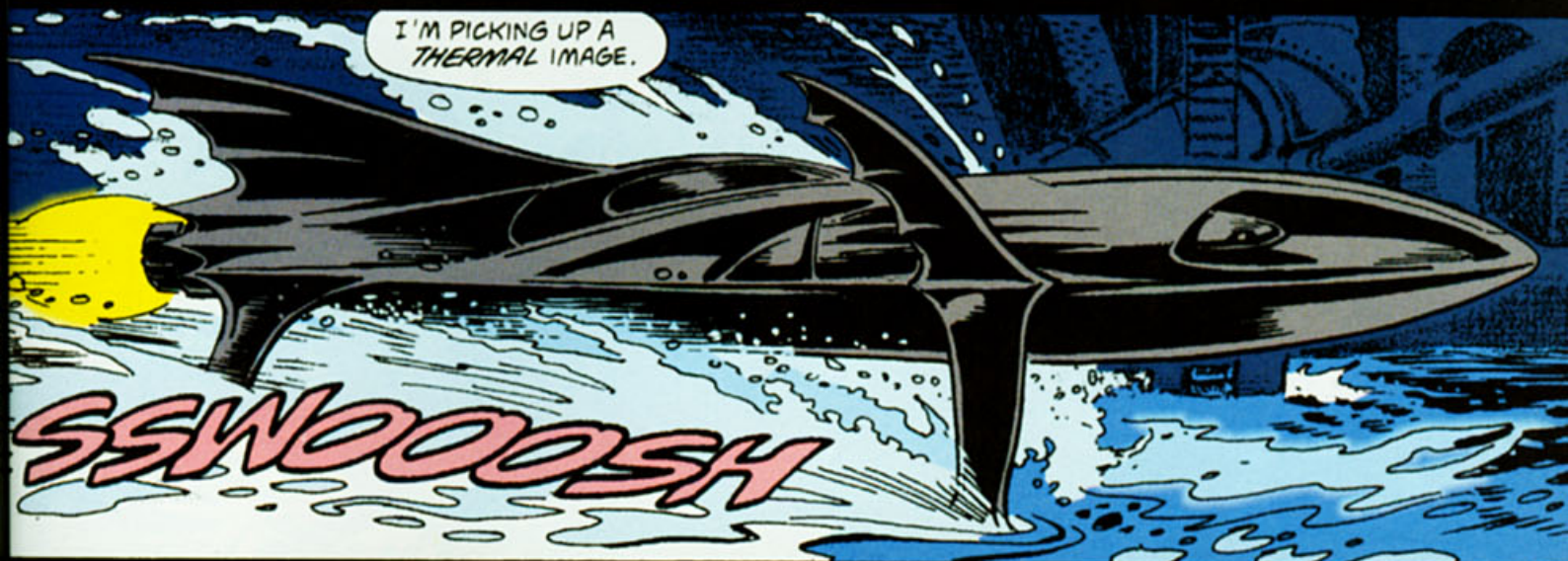
AND SO...

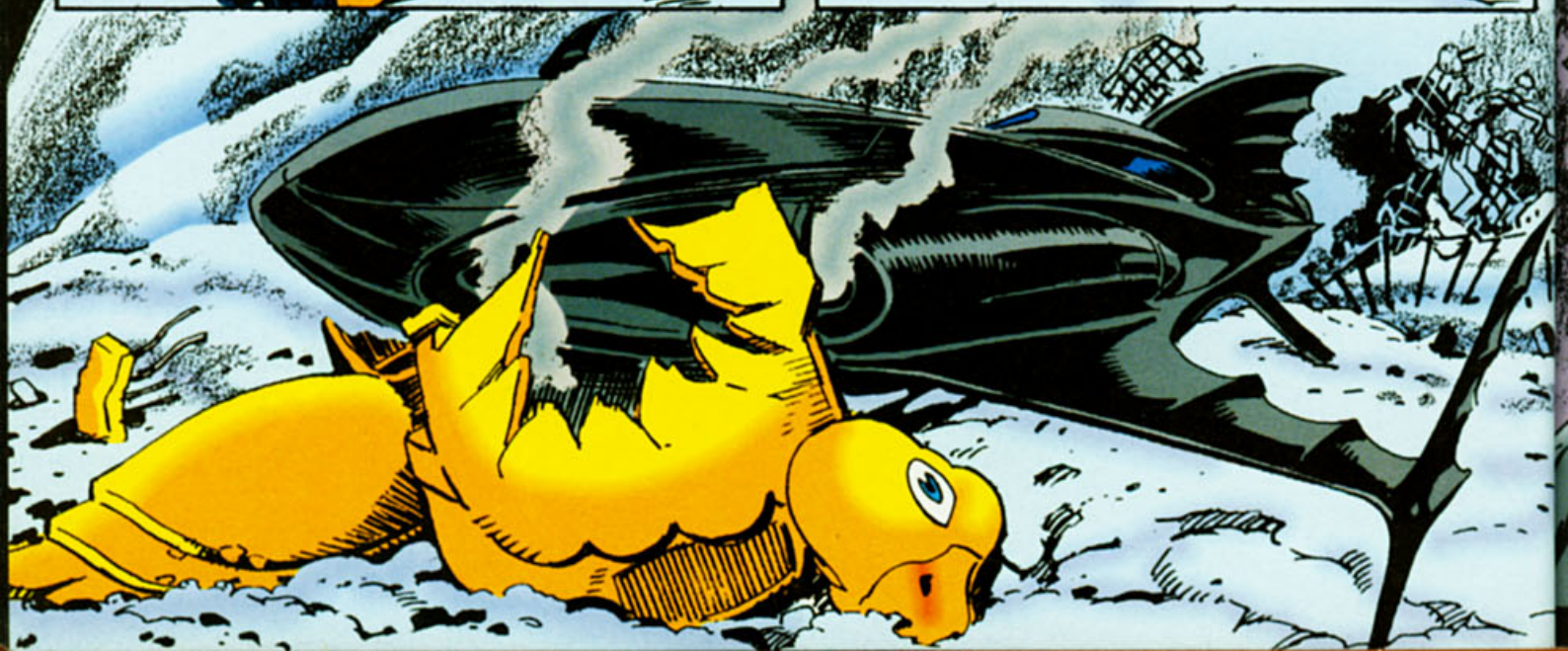
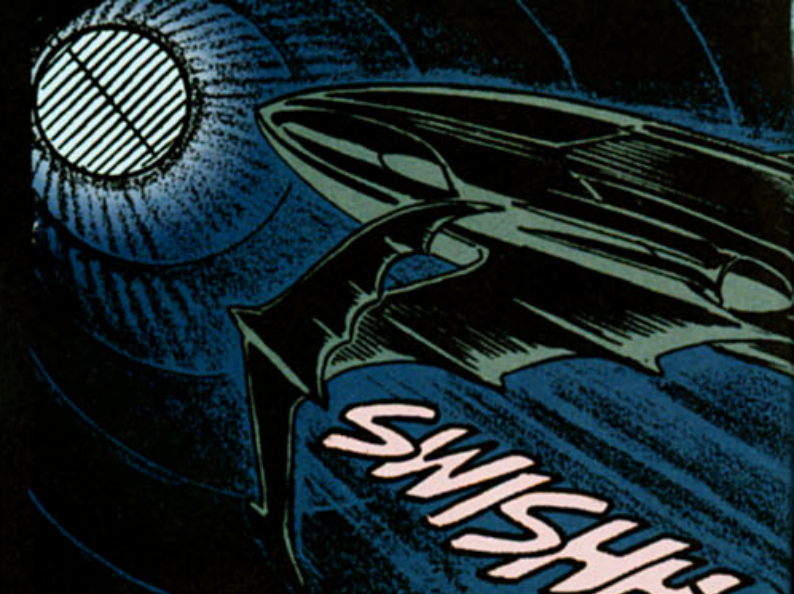


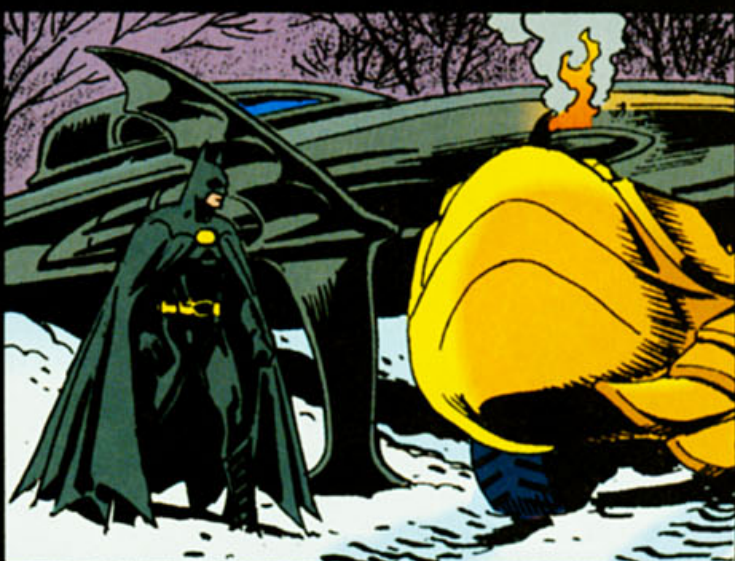
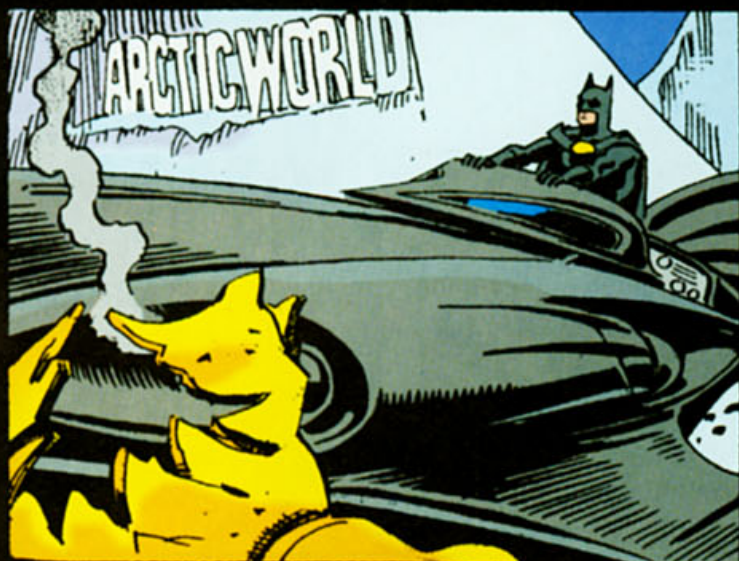


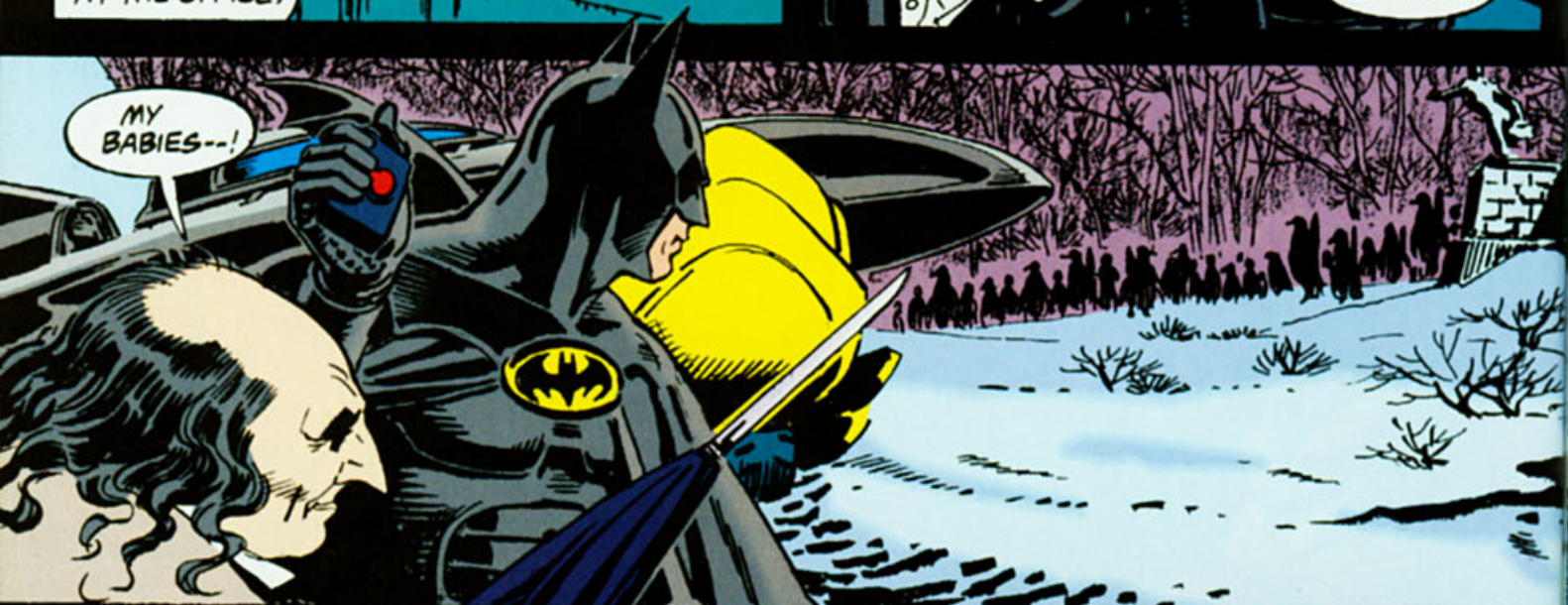
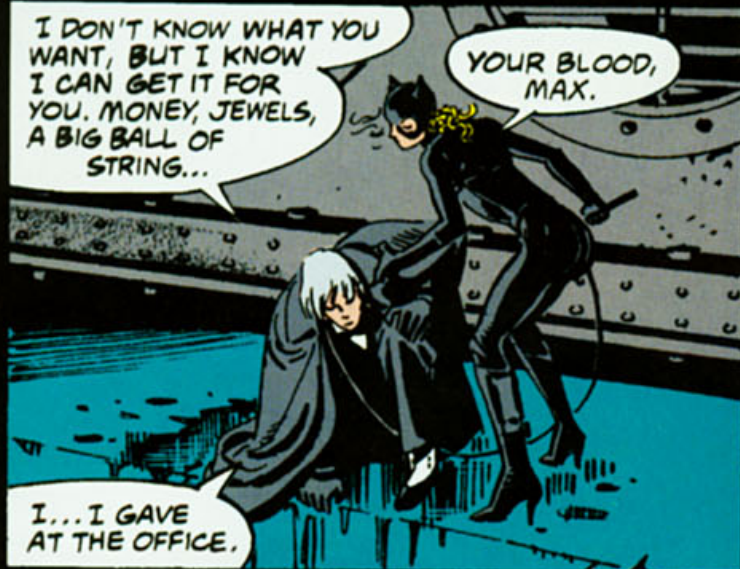


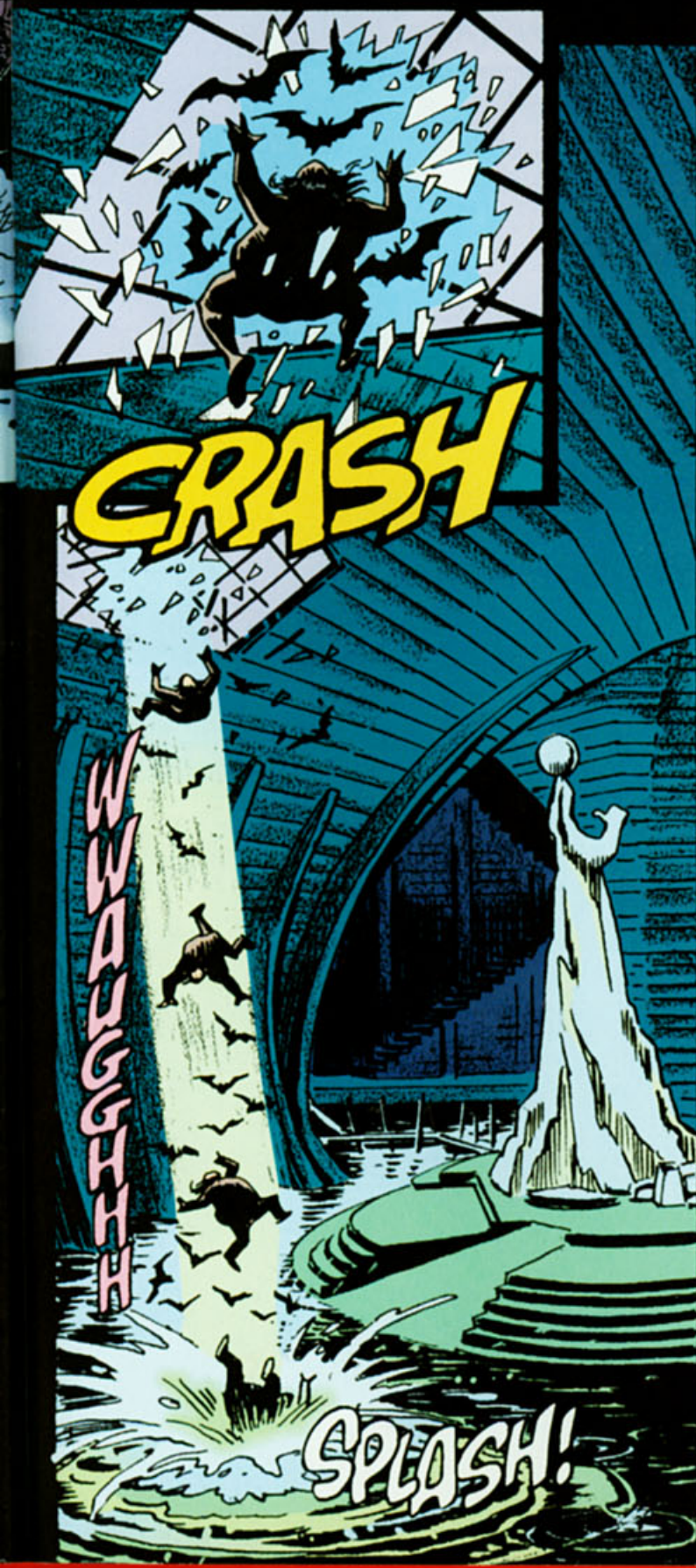


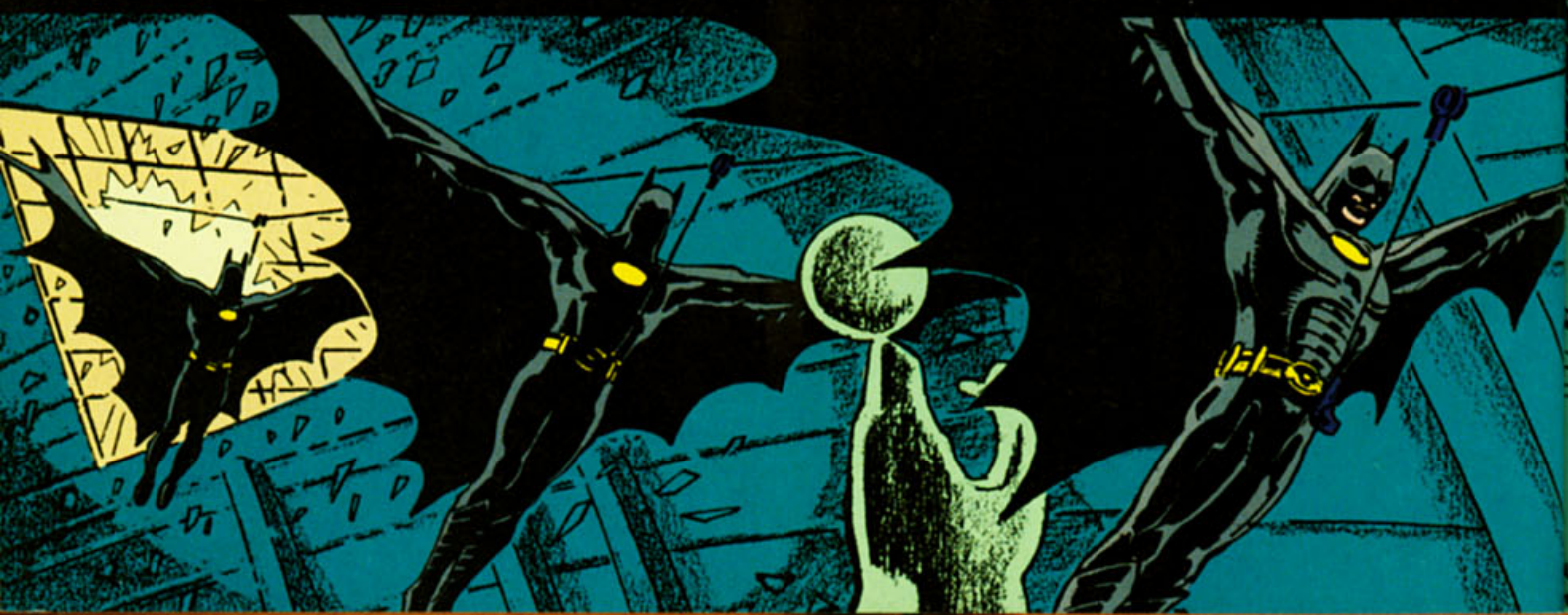
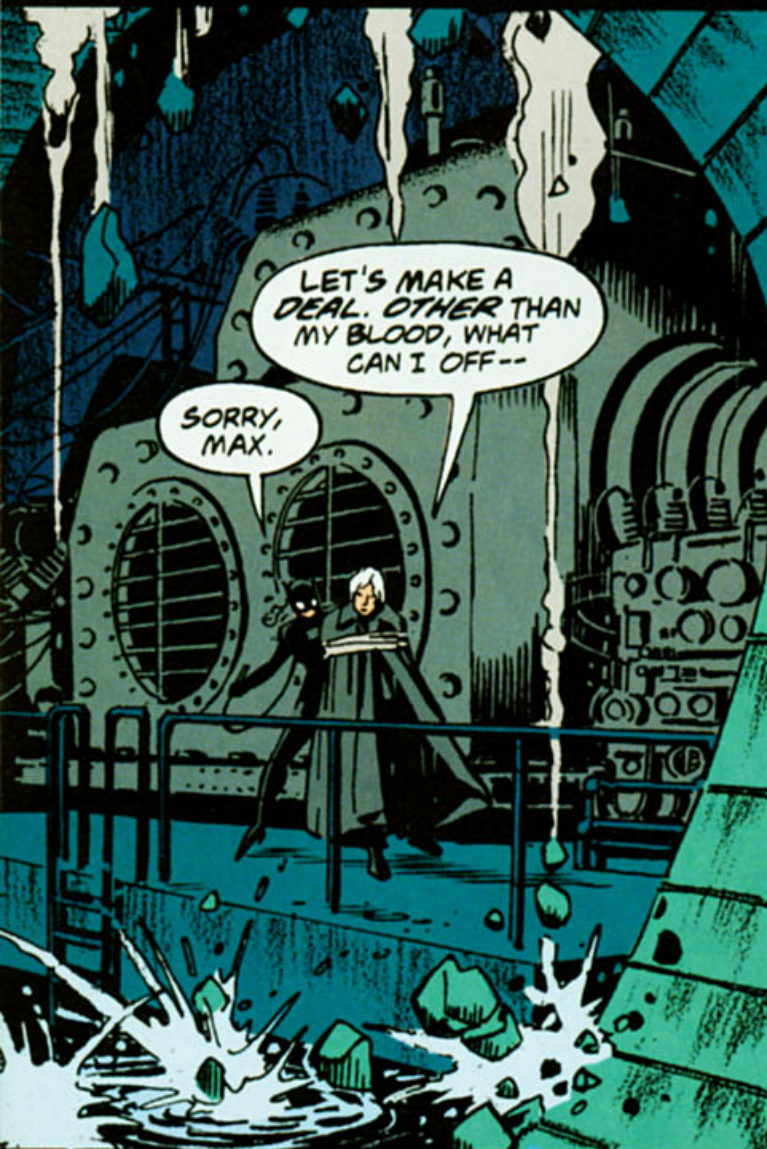








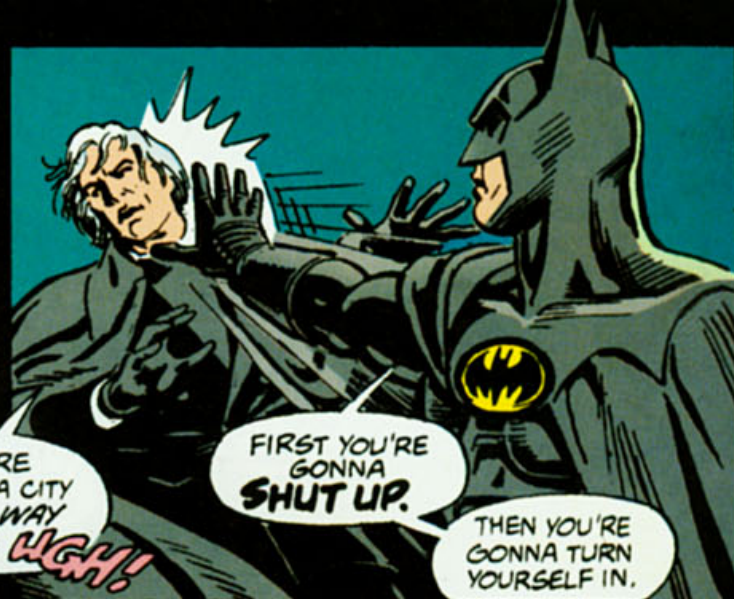






YOU'RE NOT JUST SAVING ONE LIFE--

-- YOU'RE SAVING A CITY AND ITS WAY OF LIFE



FIRST YOU'RE GONNA SHUT UP.

THEN YOU'RE GONNA TURN YOURSELF IN.

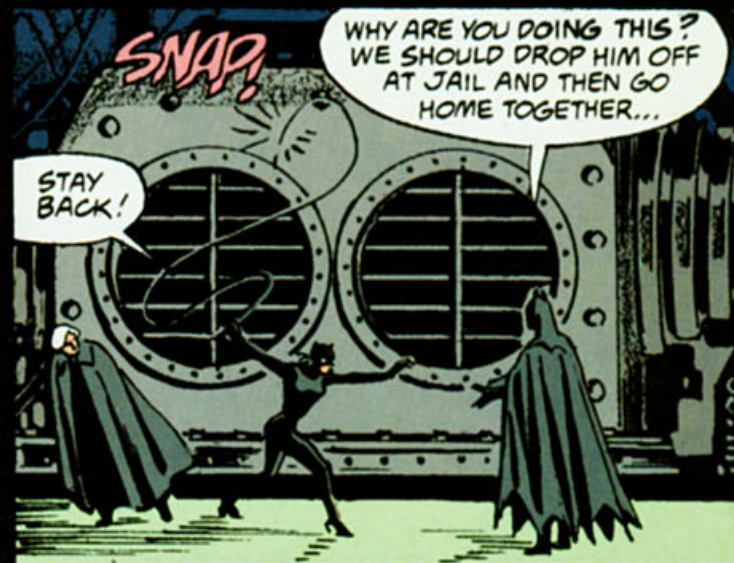


DON'T BE NAIVE. THE LAW DOESN'T APPLY TO PEOPLE LIKE HIM!

OR US.



WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS.



SNAP!

STAY BACK!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WE SHOULD DROP HIM OFF AT JAIL AND THEN GO HOME TOGETHER...



I'M NOT A HOUSE-CAT.

I WON'T DECLAW YOU.

JUST WATCH WHERE YOU SHARPEN THOSE THINGS.

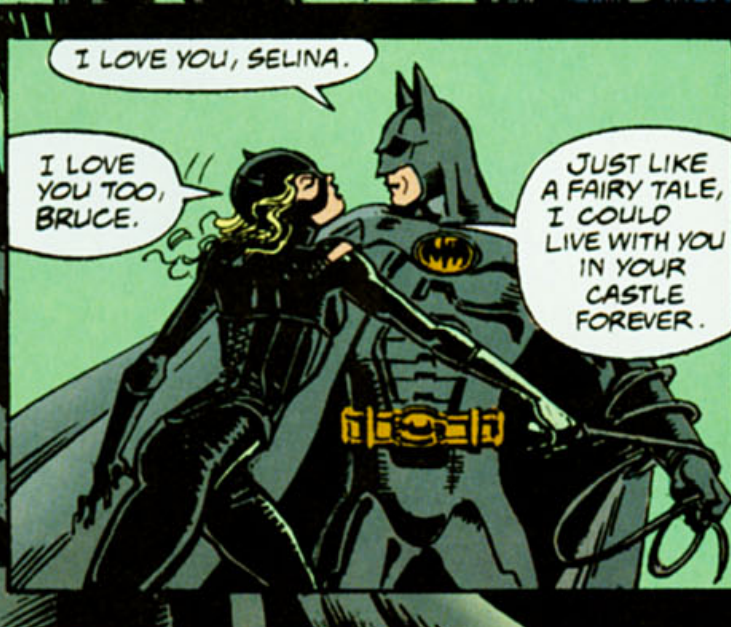


DON'T YOU SEE--



WE'RE THE SAME...

... SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE...



I LOVE YOU, SELINA.

I LOVE YOU TOO, BRUCE.

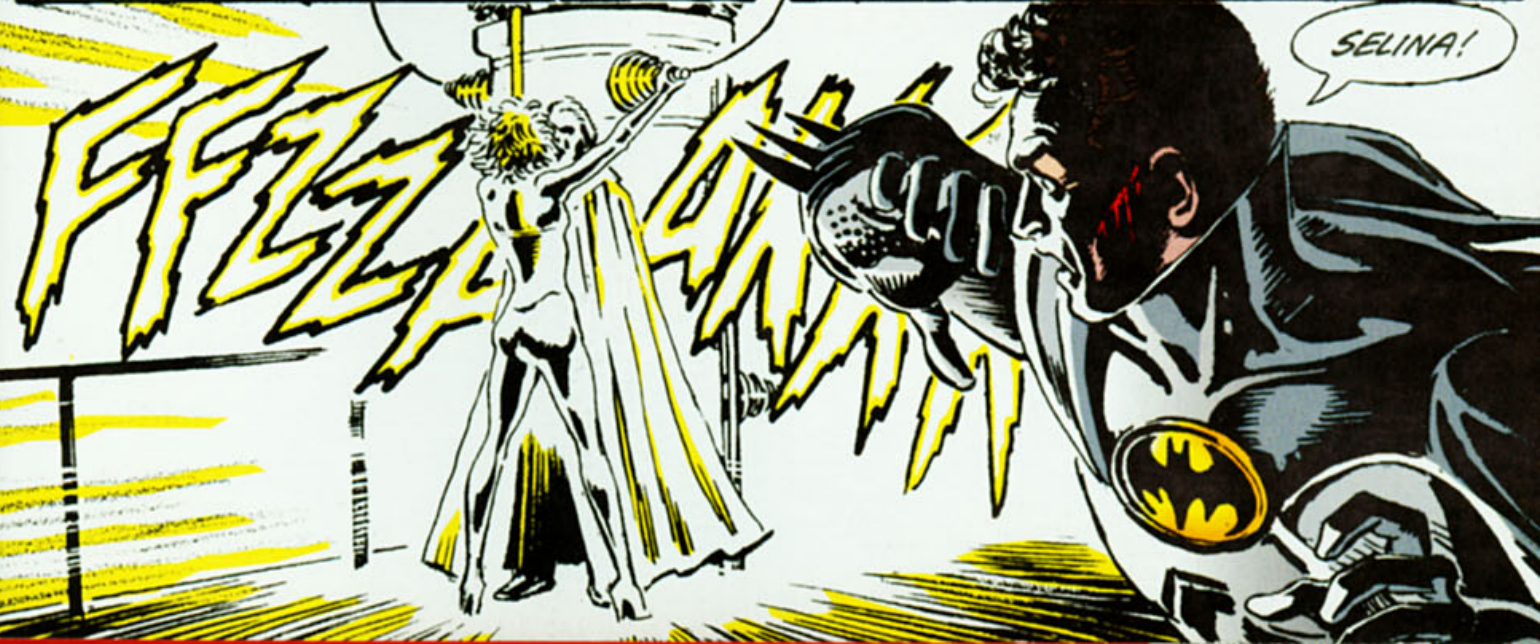
JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE, I COULD LIVE WITH YOU IN YOUR CASTLE FOREVER.



I JUST COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF!

THOX!



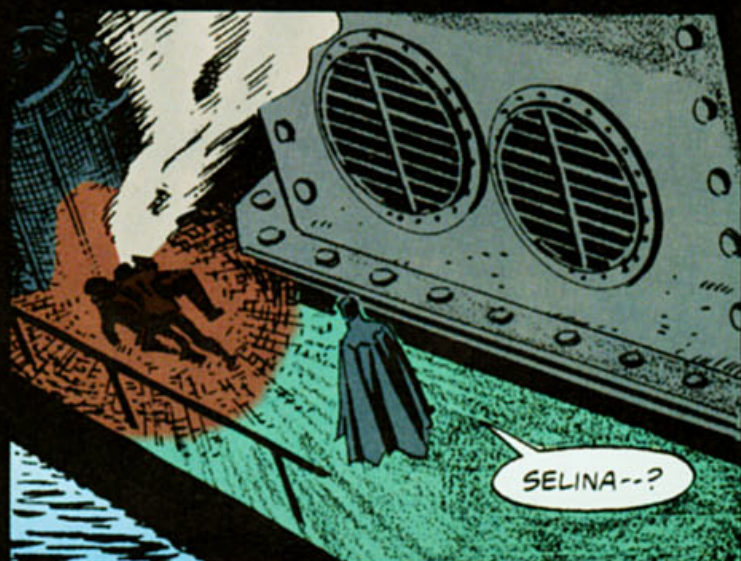




HEY! WHO TURNED
OUT THE LIGHTS!

THE POWER'S
OUT EVERYWHERE!

LOOK--
OUTSIDE!



SELINA--?



BWA-HAHHAHA

SE-LIN-A
KYLE...



AND MAX.



BLOP
BLOP

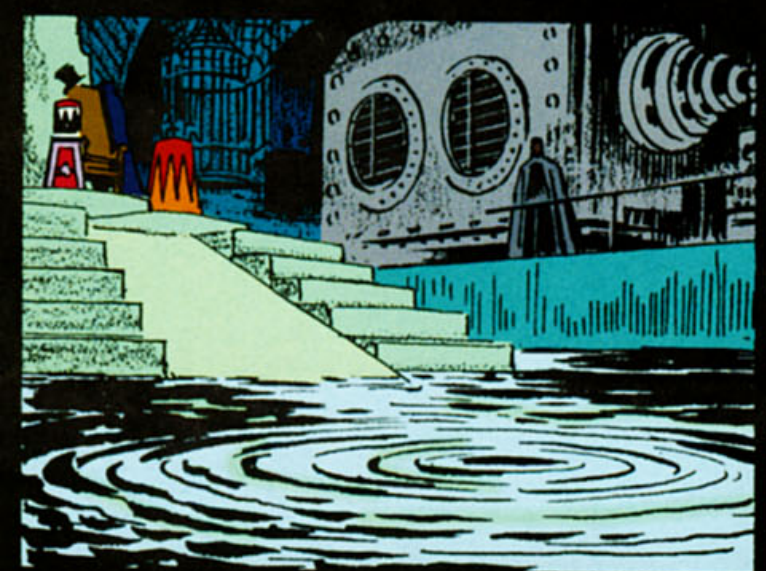
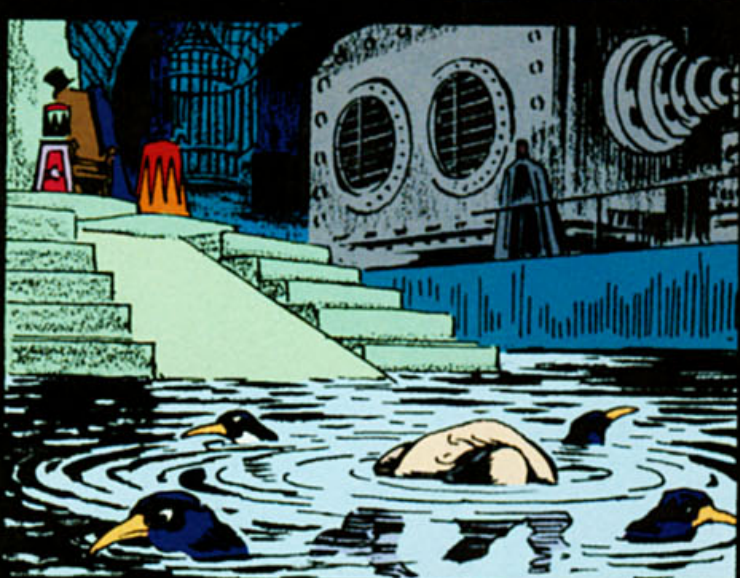
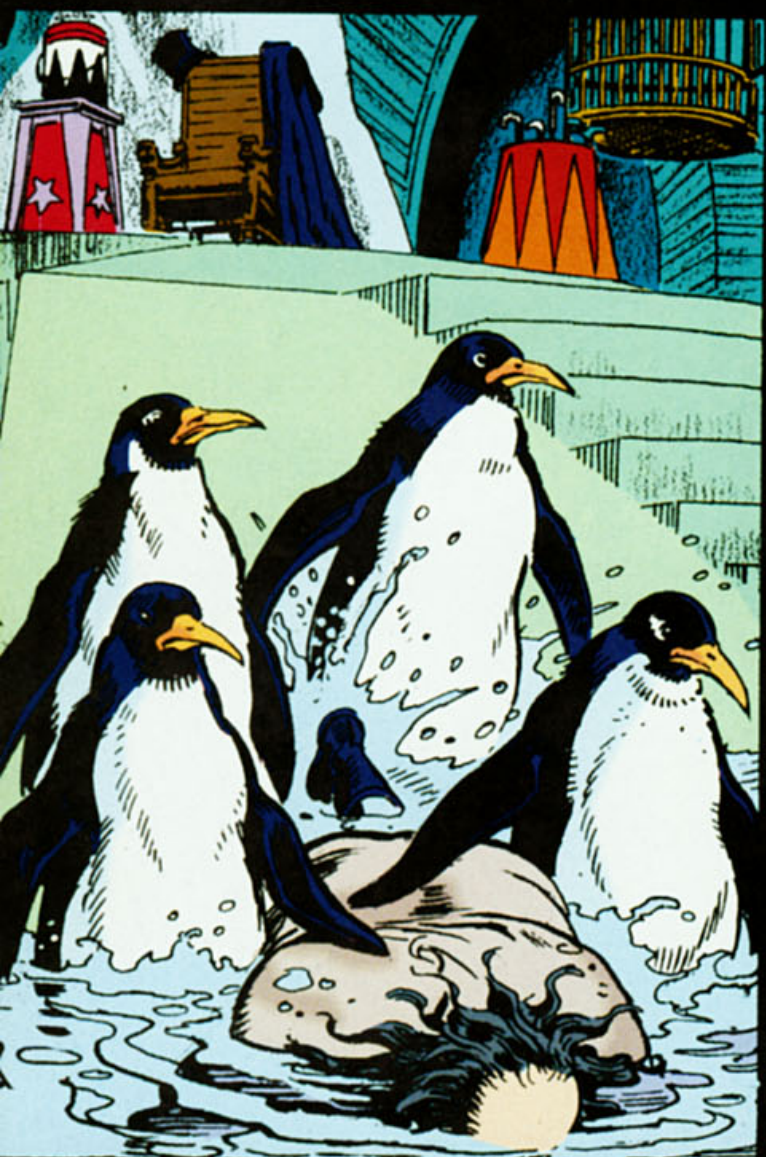
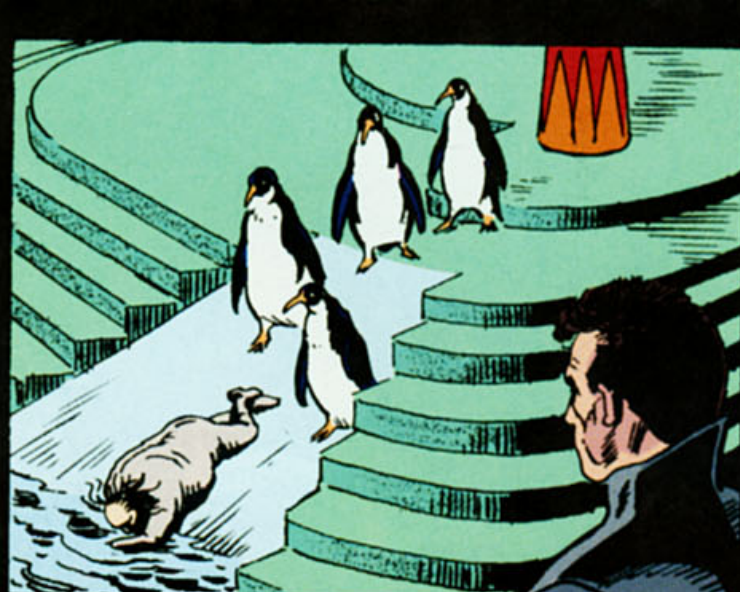
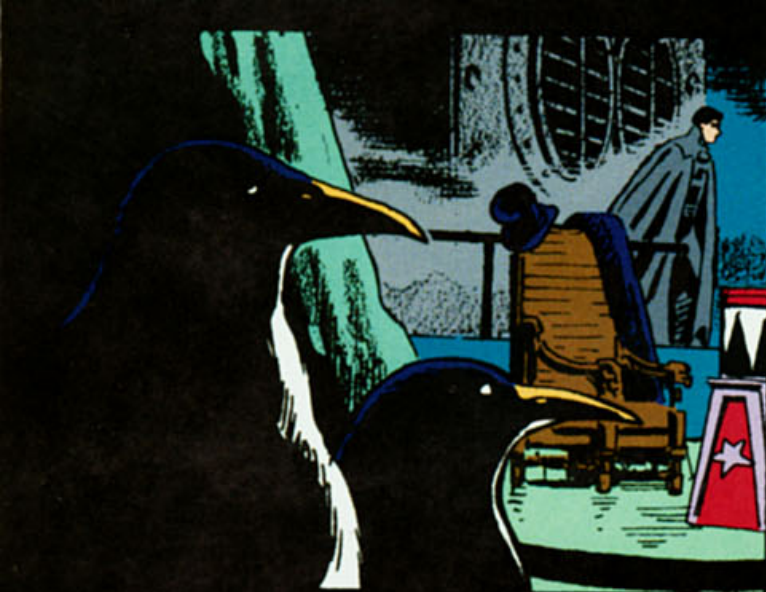


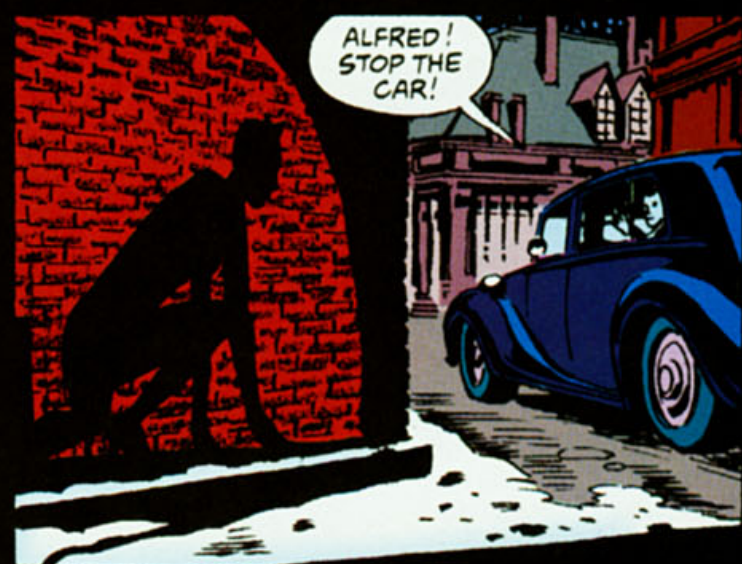
~pant!~

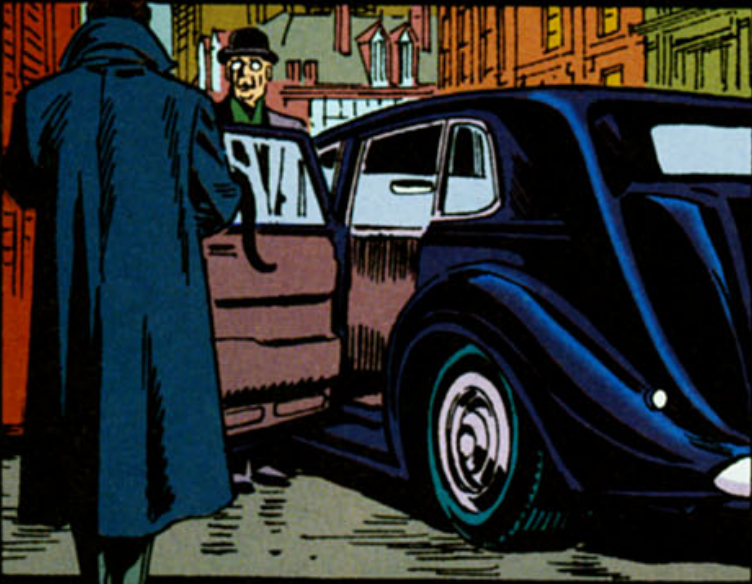


GOTTA
CRANK THE
A.C.







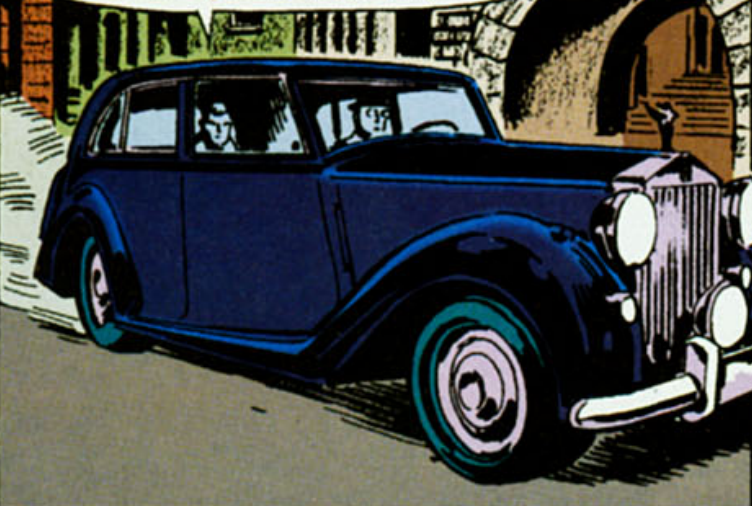


HMPF. YES, WELL--



COME WHAT MAY,
MERRY CHRISTMAS,
MR. WAYNE.

RIGHT. SURE. AND "PEACE ON EARTH,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."



AND
WOMEN.



TM

DC COMICS INC.

<small>PRESIDENT & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</small> JENETTE KAHN	<small>VP-EDITORIAL DIRECTOR</small> DICK GIORDANO	<small>EDITOR</small> JONATHAN PETERSON	<small>ASSISTANT EDITOR</small> SCOTT PETERSON
<small>DIRECTOR- DESIGN SERVICES</small> JIM CHADWICK	<small>ART DIRECTOR</small> ROBBIN BROSTERMAN	<small>VP-CREATIVE DIRECTOR</small> JOE ORLANDO	
<small>EXECUTIVE VP. & PUBLISHER</small> PAUL LEVITZ	<small>VP-SALES & MARKETING</small> BRUCE BRISTOW	<small>VP- CONTROLLER</small> PATRICK CALDON	<small>DIRECTOR- EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATION</small> TERRI CUNNINGHAM
<small>VP- BUSINESS AFFAIRS</small> CHANTAL D'AULNIS	<small>VP- LEGAL AFFAIRS</small> LILLIAN LASERSON	<small>PRODUCTION DIRECTOR</small> BOB ROZAKIS	



\$5.95 US/\$6.95 CAN
ISBN: 1-56389-064-X